

February 2, 1972
Allen Jackson

WASHINGTON

Good evening. A hint of compromise is in the wind in Washington - over the Administration's deadlocked welfare reform plan. The Administration says - it is willing to consider some of the objections of the congressional critics - and is not opposed to a test-run for the program - in an experimental pilot project - if that will help pry the original reform plan - loose from its congressional pigeon-hole. As White House News Secretary Ron Ziegler put it - "any step that would lead to progress in welfare reform legislation - could be considered a positive step when you consider where it has been over the last few years." And he hinted that Welfare Secretary Elliot Richardson might outline the Administration's new negotiating position - at a news conference ~~later~~ tomorrow.

WHITE HOUSE

Also from the White House - an escalation today in Administration efforts to end that West Coast dock strike. President Nixon addressed a special message to Congress - charging the strike has "thrust a spike into our progress toward economic recovery."

The President went on to say: "Tens of thousands of people - who share no part of the dispute - are suffering needlessly; yet our government stands idly by - paralyzed because the Executive branch has exhausted all available remedies - and the Congress has been unwilling to enact emergency legislation."

The President again urged the Democratic leadership in Congress - to move "swiftly and decisively;" to help pry loose the necessary legislation.

LONDONDERRY-BELFAST-DUBLIN

On a rain-swept hilltop at Londonderry in Northern Ireland - the survivors of "bloody Sunday" buried their dead today. Throughout all of Ireland - both North and South Roman Catholic churches celebrated simultaneous Masses; and the normal hustle and bustle of everyday life - came to a near standstill.

But the quiet, such as it was - was relatively short-lived. At Belfast, rock-throwing mobs and hidden snipers - battled police and British soldiers all day long and on the night. In one case, a group of children lured in a British trooper - who was then shot three times.

And - a mass attack on the British Embassy at Dublin; with a mob of about twenty-five thousand - finally burning the building. Luckily - no one hurt; but a new low in Irish and British relations - now the worst since Ireland achieved its independence from Britain nearly fifty years ago.

LOTTERY

At the big Commerce Department Auditorium in Washington - the big drawing of Nineteen-Seventy-Two. And the winner - or is it the loser? - anyway, the Number One birthdate in this year's draft lottery - March Sixth; followed closely by Number Two - March Seventh; and then - third - August Third; fourth - April Twenty-First; fifth - July Twenty-First - and so on down the line.

Draft Director Curtiss Tarr stressed, however: "The manpower requirement of the armed services have decreased considerably - and there has been a corresponding lowering of the number of men inducted." Which could mean - we are told - that of all those dates listed today - possibly not many will actually be called - when this list becomes effective next year.

INDOCHINA

Ground action in Indochina - was marked today by a South Vietnamese incursion into Northern Cambodia . Some three thousand Saigon troops - attempting to run down a suspected enemy build-up. These many of the same troops withdrawn from Cambodia just last month - in order to strengthen government defenses around Saigon.

WASHINGTON FOLLOW INDOCHINA

Here at home - President's latest peace offensive was soundly scored today - by Senator Muskie of Maine; who said the President was offering nothing more than "renumbered and re-issued proposals - that have failed for six years to end the war.

JERUSALEM

In the Middle East - at Jerusalem - something of a breakthrough today. The Israeli government finally accepting a U.S. proposal - to take part in indirect talks with Egypt on reopening the Suez Canal. But Egypt's willingness to take part in such talks - now in grave doubt. You'll recall, Egyptian President Anwar Sadat ^{said} saying just last week - he is rejecting, henceforth, all U.S. peace-making efforts.

SUGGESTED LEAD-IN THOMAS TAPE "NORTH SLOPE"

**Next - Lowell Thomas; discussing tonight - one of
the coldest places on earth. Lowell....**

1:45

72

From Alaska's oil rich North Slope - a report today on current "life at the top." As you might expect in the dead of winter - not so hot.

~~2x~~ *Day time temperatures presently averaging about thirty below. This coupled with sixty-mile an hour winds -- to make it feel like a hundred below -- a condition sufficient to freeze exposed flesh - in less than thirty seconds.*

When working outdoors - Alaskan oil men are thus forced to check each other frequently - for signs of frost bite and even deep breathing - a perilous undertaking. If you're not careful - it can frost the lungs.

Cold or no - the work goes on. Alaskan oil men wrestling with whirling driving clanking, steam belching equipment -in weather cold enough to freeze anti-freeze. The search for additional oil

~~deep~~ deposits also an on-going proposition.

Still a subject of ~~the~~ great controversy though -
the ~~one~~ environmental issue. Indeed, an Alaskan
observer noting ~~was~~ recently. "The prospectors are
striking oil and ecologists - in almost equal
concentrations." *Whatever that means.*

SUGGESTED FOLLOW UP TO THOMAS TAPE "NORTH SLOPE"

Thank you, Lowell.

A final note - after we thaw out.

PUNXUSTAWNEY

In the foothills of the Alleghenies - at Gobbler's Knob in Punxustawney, Pennsylvania - an ominous sign today. The famed Punxsutawney Groundhog - emerging from his hole; spotted his shadow - whereupon quickly bounded back inside. All of which is said to indicate - at least six more weeks of winter. For some - an eternity; especially in the Far North - where the cry is heard: "Will it ever end?"

But then, as Mark Twain once said: "It always has."

Now for Lowell - so long until tomorrow.