

Good evening everybody.

Eighteen-year-olds have been given the vote - in Presidential and Congressional elections. In a split decision - five to four - the United States Supreme Court today up-held that provision of the Nineteen-Seventy Federal Voting Rights Act. It becomes effective January First.

But in another five-to-four opinion, the Court disapproved lowering through Federal action the voting age for state and local elections. That will be left up to the individual states - most of which still have a twenty-one year minimum. Democrat Senator Edward Kennedy of Massachusetts already is moving for quick adoption of a constitutional amendment that would lower the minimum to eighteen for state and local elections. As things now stand, officials in many states foresee serious complications - with Eighteen-year-olds allowed to vote in some elections but not in others.

In any event, though, Senate Democratic Leader

Mansfield praises the Court's action in reducing the age to eighteen for Federal elections. He says it will live as one of the most, if not THE most, significant actions in the Court's history. With this opinion, says ⁴⁴Mansfield, the Supreme Court has shifted the burden and placed it where it belongs - on the young people themselves, on those who have raised their voices and pointed their fingers - on those who decry and criticize for being saddled with responsibilities and obligations that in many cases they neither sought nor sanctioned.

LITHUANIAN SAILOR

The Coast Guard today recommended courts-martial for two highranking officers in the case of Lithuanian sailor who tried to defect from a Soviet fishing vessel. But transportation Secretary John Volpe over-ruled the recommendation, and the two officers agreed to retire at once. They are Rear Admiral Willima Ellis, Commandant of the First Coast Guard district, and his chief of staff, Captain Fletcher Brown. They gave the order returning the Lithuanian to the Soviet vessel November Twenty-Third.

Secretary Volpe said errors in the chain of command have now been corrected. American remains a haven for the oppressed, he said - and an incident like this will never happen again.

WARSAW

In Communist Poland - Edward Gierek has taken over for Wladyslaw Gomulka. The new Communist Party Leader - moving swiftly in the direction of economic reform. And Warsaw reports tonight - that a sense of calm has begun to return to that embattled country.

Incidentally - the Soviets today ignoring Gomulka's ouster. However, the Kremlin hailing Gierek - as ^a"sincere friend of the Soviet Union." An apparent vote of confidence - for the moment, anyway. Actually, it seems almost certain that Gierek would not have been appointed ~~to~~ without Moscow's approval.

MOSCOW

At the Kremlin - a luncheon today in honor of a high-level delegation from Cairo. The group including Egyptian Vice President Aly Sabry - War Minister Mohammed Fawzi - the Foreign Minister Mahmoud Riad. Except for President Anwar Sadat - who stayed home - practically the entire first team.

Soviet Premier Kosygin - who hosted the affair - noting the Egyptians had come to discuss military matters. Adding that "the Soviet Union - will continue to side firmly with the Arab people." "We can state most definitely" - he went on - "that the Israeli aggressors and those who back them - will never attain the aims of their expansionist policy."

BETHLEHEM FOLLOW MOSCOW

In the Holy Land - an attempt today to forget the Arab-Israeli impasse; with thousands upon thousands of pilgrims flocking in - bent solely on marking the birth date of the fabled "Prince of Peace." The great bulk heading for Bethlehem in the windswept Judean hills - where Jesus was born; a little town whose Manger Square is now bright and gay - strung with a multitude of colored lights.

Out there in the darkness though - more than a thousand Israeli troops on full alert; assigned the task of standing guard - against threatened Arab guerilla attacks. "Peace on earth, good will to men" - a goal much to be sought but not just yet - it seems.

This next - from the Island of Maui in Hawaii; a story perhaps proving - it's an ill wind that blows no good.

Dr. Steven Kallestad reporting a series of experiments - among a number of hippie colonies located on Maui.

These - recently struck by outbreaks of hepatitis. Dr. Kallestad attempting to develop a system - to permit the detection of hepatitis virus at an early stage; hoping thus to pinpoint the sources of hepatitis outbreaks - and prevent them from spreading.

And now - he's done just that - he claims; by means of a one-hour test / said to be ninety per cent effective. Best of all - says Dr. Kellestad - the test can also be used in testing potential blood donors. In effect, a means of "weeding out" unfit donors / that could save an estimated fifteen hundred lives each year.

SANTIAGO

In Santiago, Chile - another attempt to eradicate Santa Claus. Chile's new Marxist government issuing an order - banning St. Nick from all government-sponsored Christmas programs; ruling that gifts to the poor would be handed out this year - by a real, live "representative of the workers." The Christmas tree - also banned; because it - like Santa - quote, "does not adjust to our reality."

Only trouble - the government edict triggered a nationwide uproar; whereupon the Marxists - beat a hasty retreat. Santa beginning his distribution of government gifts today - same as usual; starting out - in a Santiago football stadium. The government saying he will also be present - at all subsequent Christmas parties.

Santa wins again.

SUGGESTED LEAD-IN TO THOMAS TAPE "HIJACKING"

And now - time for a special report from Lowell

Thomas. Subject tonight - airline hijacking. Lowell....

Thank you Lowell. Goodnight.

HIJACKING

Want to know "How to stop air line hi-jacking?"

A series of suggestions are featured in the current issue of Air Travel Magazine. Says Arthur Hailey, author of "Airport!" "Every lunatic, anarchist and criminal who reads the papers or watches TV has learned all he need do to be a power in the air is wave a water pistol and he's on his way to wherever he chooses."

Famed attorney F. Lee Bailey, for one, urging an international compact - where any nation that fails to return hi-jackers to the nation whose plane was stolen would be boycotted by all airlines. Another Criminal Lawyer, Melvin Belli - remember the Jack Ruby case? he urged a search of "every passenger" and every piece of baggage going aboard an air line, domestic or international.

Then, Chester Gould - creator of "Dick Tracy," says we should "train all personnel including stewardesses in the use of mace - which would be carried on their person at all times. "Tough guy" ~~is~~ Mickey Spillane - says: -

"personally, I'd like to be aboard with a live forty-five when some slob tries to take me to Cuba - or Jordan or any place else." Mickey Spillane adding - it would then be "brain splashing time, kid!"

Editor David of the Famous British magazine "Punch", suggests safety belts, fastened by lock and key, for all passengers. Then it would be difficult for a hijacker to do anything.

There are many more suggestions, even including one from me. Any thoughts on this, Warren.