

Fri. Mar. 19-71,

NEW YORK

At New York's St. James Episcopal Church--the last rites today for a great American. With President and Mrs. ~~Gov~~ and Mrs. Rockefeller, former V.P. Humphrey, Nixon, ~~reading~~, a host of mourners--in a final tribute to former Governor Thomas E. Dewey of New York, one of the outstanding leaders of our era.

The services led by the Reverend Doctor Ralph Lankler--pastor of the Church of ~~Christ~~ ^{Community} ~~near~~ ^{near} Tom Dewey's ~~home~~ ^{home as} ~~beloved~~ ^{Dutchess County} Quaker Hill, New York. ~~Dr. Lankler saying of~~

~~the former Governor: "May he hear his Lord speak to~~
~~Qve. Jammed - with a great crowd outside~~
~~him the words we all desire to hear - well done, good and~~
~~in spite of a drenching rain,~~
~~faithful servant - you have been faithful over a few~~
~~things - now I will set you as master over many - enter~~
~~them into the joy of the Lord."~~

~~Thomas E. Dewey - now one with the ages.~~

WHITE HOUSE

Earlier
~~here at home~~

President Nixon ~~today~~ proclaimed next week - "a national week of concern for Americans who are prisoners of war or missing in action" in Indochina. The President calling "upon all the people of the U.S. - to observe this week in heartfelt prayer." He also called for "ceremonies and activities - appropriate to voice deep concern for the prisoners and missing men - to inspire their loved ones with new courage and hope - ~~and to hope~~ - and to hasten the day when their ordeal may end."

INDOCHINA

The fighting in Laos - marked by additional South Vietnamese withdrawals today; with Allied officials later disclosing a sharp pullback - all along the line. Apparently a planned retreat - in the face of a massive enemy advance.

Observers add that the monsoon season - is also fast approaching; and ^{a virtual} with it - ~~an end~~ to U.S. air support.

So as far as the Laos operation is concerned - this could be it.

BEIRUT

From Beirut - a report today that Egypt has informed the U.S. - it will resume hostilities against Israel as of next Wednesday; will do so - unless there is a breakthrough at last in peace talks. This - according to the moderate daily Al Nahar; but as yet, of course - nothing official.

Meanwhile, Israel's Abba Eban - conferring with U.S. Secretary of State William Rogers. Later saying: "There is objectively - no deadlock." Eban adding the time has now come to settle the issue of Mideast boundaries - by means of direct negotiations between Egypt and Israel.

SENATE

For the on-again, off-again SST - another new

*lease on life, today. The Senate Appropriations Committee -
voting seventeen-to-five in favor of continuing the SST
development project. This in spite of a House vote yesterday
- aimed at killing the SST. And the stage is now set for another,
another tough Senate floor fight - scheduled to begin next
Tuesday.*

*At the same time, the White House serving notice -
that the President has no intention of giving up on the SST.*

*White House Press Secretary ~~Don~~ Ziegler saying: "Our hope
and objective is - that the Senate will restore the funds."*

*But failing that - said he - doubtless "a number of suggestions
will be forthcoming" - on how next to proceed.*

At Newton, Mass. - Spiro Agnew versus the news

media - again. This in connection with a CBS-TV News documentary - "The Selling of the Pentagon" - which the Vice President has ~~roundly~~ criticized.

~~Spiro~~ Agnew saying today that he had "no thoughts" - of trying to intimidate the national press. And he added:

"The national media are big boys now - big enough to stand a little criticism." But he also said: "The media have acted as if they were infallible - and it's time they realized their infallibility is less than concrete."

A related item: The nation's General Accounting Office - publishing today a booklet entitled, "Acquisition of Major Weapons Systems"; a booklet - which is also highly critical of Pentagon procedures.

The GAO noting that a study of some fifty weapons systems - had shown a cost overrun averaging about thirty per cent; also, a slippage of about thirty-three per cent - in scheduled completion dates. The GAO adding that this could have been the result - of "such things as unanticipated difficulties, faulty planning, poor management - or deliberate underestimating."

VIENNA

The second session of fourth-round SALT talks - held today in Vienna. According to U.S. sources - another attempt at "stock-taking;" in hopes of finding whether the two sides - can now take ^{real} ~~concrete~~ steps toward agreement."

Incidentally, today's meeting - held in the midst of one of Vienna's greatest traffic jams of all time. Austria's dairy farmers - clogging the streets with an estimated seven thousand tractors. These parked four-abreast along the famed Ringstrasse - forcing thousands to walk to work. The farmers demanding higher prices for milk - and lower prices for deisel fuel.

LAKE YANAHUARIN

Tragedy in Peru. Police reporting today a giant landslide - along the shores of Lake Yanahuarin in rain-soaked Pasco province in northeastern Peru. The slide carrying away a hillside mining camp - also, forcing the lake to overflow its banks; with tons of water then pouring into mining installations - offices, processing plants and so on. Early reports indicating a death toll - ranging "from four hundred to six hundred, out of a total of one thousand workers!"

PRICES

The U.S. cost of living index - up again last month, but just slightly. According to government figures announced today - a mere two-tenths of a per cent; which marks the second straight month - of steady improvement.

Labor Secretary James Hodgson - calling the new figures most encouraging. An indication - said he - that the Nixon Administration is "clearly headed in the right direction" in its fight against inflation.

LOS ANGELES

On the medical front - Los Angeles - a new technique for diagnosing cardio-vascular difficulties. This by means of a long plastic tube - with a tiny balloon at the end. The balloon inserted into a patient's arm - and then inflated; whereupon it begins to float through the body - taking blood pressure, taking blood samples, measuring electric signals from the heart.

In medical terminology - the new device is called a flotation catheter. To the doctors who use it though - it's simply a "trial balloon."

ST. LOUIS

Development of a revolutionary new type of contact lens - is reported today from St. Louis. This one - a so-called "soft lens;" made of a gel-like material - that absorbs moisture and also conforms easily to the shape of the eye.

Chief advantage - they tell us ^{the} fact that the new soft lens - virtually eliminates the normal break-in period; which - with "hard" lenses - ~~can be rather painful~~. ^{sometimes isn't easy,} Further, the soft lens can be worn almost indefinitely - in time, perhaps even while sleeping. ^{Warren would you say to her: "My dear} "The better to "see you in my dreams?" ~~my dear.~~

UPPER MIDWEST

The advent of spring - now less than two days away, if you look at the calendar. If you look outside though - well, there could be some doubt.

For example, additional ^{heavy snows} ~~snows~~ today in the Upper Midwest - which is still digging out from yesterday's blizzard. Indiana also checking in with two small tornadoes — a drenching downpour — while it was raining here in the East and clear across the South; not a warm spring rain - but rather a cold end-of-winter rain. And the voice of a weatherman is heard in the land - saying: "Spring will come eventually - but not for the next four days or so."