

HI-JACKING

**July 23, 1971
Allan Jackson**

Good evening. Drama - and tragedy in the sky-ways around New York this afternoon. A desperate young man hi-jacked one airliner and tried to hi-jack a second - but was shot and killed by an FBI sharp-shooter. The man has been identified as twenty-seven year old Richard Obergfeld of Passaic, New Jersey. He began his bizarre and deadly hi-jack maneuver - aboard a TWA jetliner bound for Chicago. He forced it to return to New York - landing at La Guardia's airfield. There - he kidnapped two airliner employees as hostages - and commandeered a truck for a wild ride across Long Island - to the larger John F. Kennedy airport - there demanding a plane to fly him to Milan, Italy. It all came to a quick end - with two rifle shots - from the FBI marksman -and Obergfeld was dead - his fantasy over. No reason has been established for his wild acts of desperation.

PRICES

The U.S. cost of living index - up again last month; a full one-half-of-one-per cent - according to government figures announced today. Labor Secretary James Hodgson observing - this "was not one of our better months." The White House also noting that grocery bills - spearheaded the advance. Nevertheless, insisting: "We are doing everything we can - to produce a policy that will lead to a slowdown in food prices."

Reverse side - from Democratic National Chairman Lawrence O'Brien - who called the price rise "devastating;" in view of his political affiliation - a comment not entirely unexpected. But less so - the reaction of Chairman Arthur Burns of the Federal Reserve Board. The man who was once the President's top domestic adviser - told a joint House and Senate Economic Committee - that "inflation is preceeding both ^{at} an unacceptable and dangerous rate." Adding that the Administration has made as yet - "very little progress" to contain it. And that - said Arthur Burns - is the key to long-range prosperity.

KHARTOUM

A story of swift retribution - comes today from Khartoum in the Sudan; where four leaders of that abortive coup against Sudan's President Numeiry - were tried, convicted and promptly executed by a firing squad.

By contrast, a state funeral today - for thirty loyalist soldiers who were killed during Numeiry's counter-coup. The President calling them all - "martyrs who died in the field of honor."

NEW YORK

Here in New York - a suspended sentence today for Rabbi Meir Kahane - leader of the militant Jewish Defense League - also, two of his key aides. All three - you'll recall - having earlier pleaded guilty to charges of conspiring to manufacture bombs. But they're now promised - and, indeed, the court has so ordered - "never again."

ST. PAUL

For what it's worth - this next from St. Paul.

A long-time supporter of Eugene McCarthy - saying today the former Senator will run for President next year; not as a third-party candidate - but rather a Democrat via the primary route.

SUGGESTED LEAD-IN TO THOMAS TAPE "BAGPIPE"

Next - Lowell Thomas; a member of Scotland's famed St. Andrews Royal and Ancient golf club - which perhaps accounts for his subject tonight - the bagpipe. Lowell...

BAGPIPE

L. J. Type insert -
uncredited

Next to Scotch whiskey - and maybe the kilt - the bagpipe is the true emblem of Scotland. To a Scot - wherever he may be - no sound can stir him like the skirl of the pipes. Which apparently accounts for the fact - that the ancient art of bagpiping has spread right around ^{the globe.}

The bagpipe - U.S. style - once inspired football teams - brightened parades - enliven the meetings of fraternal organizations. Though the British flag is now disappearing "East of Suez" - the bagpipe somehow - remains wherever Scots have been - "in her majesty's service."

Who can ever forget - "The Campbells Are Coming!" Scottish troops and pipers - led by Sir Colin Campbell - marching to the relief of Lucknow - during the Indian Rebellion of Eighteen-Fifty-Seven.

Strangely though, there was a bagpipe - even before there was a Scotland or a Scottish army. Roman legionnaires were experts at playing the instrument - and it

was they who probably introduced it to the British Isles.

It must be admitted, however - that the shrill wail of the pipes does not appeal to everyone. The English - after years of bloody warfare - perhaps the most disenchanted with the instrument. Indeed, an English wit once defining "a true gentleman" - as "a man who can play the bagpipes - but doesn't."

SUGGESTED FOLLOW TO TAPE "BAGPIPE"

Thank you Lowell. I'll have another story in a

minute.

thirty-nine-year-old Vernon Craig of Waverly, Ohio, and American jockey who today established a three-

hour and twenty-five minute, twenty minutes and

previous record of one hour and twenty minutes.

record of one hour and twenty minutes, Australia.

As he rose at last from his bed of three-inch spikes

John Craig says: "I've had it." Explaining that he was

sovereign, exhausted and numbed after being looked at "like

a monkey" which accounts for his failure - so make it six

hours, at present. In any event, Craig adding that this is

his first and last attempt at marathon nail-biting. "I may

be stupid once" - said he - "but not twice."

and now for Lowell... this is Allen Jackson saying

is long.

WOOSTER

The new world's record-holder for lying on a bed of nails - thirty-nine-year-old Vernon Craig of Wooster, Ohio; and American fakir who today established a spine-tingling mark - of twenty-five hours, twenty minutes and fifteen seconds; thereby topping by some eleven minutes - the previous record of one Jane Azzar of Sydney, Australia.

As he rose at last from his bed of three-inch spikes - fakir Craig saying: "I've had it." Explaining that he was "sore, exhausted and numb" and tired of being looked at "like a monkey:" which accounts for his failure - to make it sixty hours, as planned. In any event, Craig adding that this is his first and last attempt - at marathon nail-lying. "I may be stupid once" - said he - "but not twice."

And now for Lowell... this is Allen Jackson saying so long.

MOUNT FUJI

The vanguard of nearly eight thousand American Boy Scouts - began arriving in Tokyo today for the start of Scouting's Thirteenth World Jamboree. And just about the same time, a sharp earthquake on the slopes of nearby Mount Fuji - where they plan to set up their camp.

By Japanese standards - nothing to get excited about. In a country where such tremors are felt every week or so - strictly "routine" - we are told. To the Scouts though - it was surely something to write home about; but knowing boys - not likely.

HOLLYWOOD-SCOTTSDALE

The world of show business was ^{also} saddened today -
by the deaths of two famous personalities. In Hollywood -
academy Award-winning actor Van Heflin; at age sixty, the
victim of a heart attack - followed by a six-week coma.
In Scottsdale, Arizona - former "big band" leader Ted Fio
Rito; the man who recorded "Toot Toot Tootsie, Goodbye" -
who discovered, among others, famed pin-up girl Betty
Grable; at age seventy - the victim of a lengthy illness.

PALERMO

Over in Sicily - another big round-up of suspected Mafia leaders; twenty-three, in all - including a thirty-seven-year-old woman by the name of Elisabetta Indelicato Di Calogero; the second Signorina so arrested - in a period of less than two weeks. Like her predecessor, said to be a "pezzo da novanta" - which is Sicilian slang for Mafia big-shot.

LONDON

The death of one of Africa's first and greatest black leaders of modern times - reported today from London.

President Tubman of Liberia - passing away in a British clinic.

William V.S. Tubman - first elected President of Liberia back in Nineteen-Forty-Three; and since reelected - five times. With U.S. help - building a strong and relatively prosperous nation. Now the end - at age seventy-five.

VIETNAM

Half-a-world away - a big force of South Vietnamese regulars today launched a giant pincers movement; aimed at clearing of enemy infestation - a belt roughly thirty miles wide; from the Mekong River - to the Cambodian border.

While back in Saigon - a report today that the U.S. Embassy has just filed a report with Washington. This dealing with recent charges that South Vietnam's President Thieu and Vice President Ky - were both involved in illegal drug traffic; but coming to the conclusion - we are told - there is no evidence to substantiate ~~such~~ claim.

Such a

SENATE FOLLOW PRICES

Elsewhere on Capitol Hill - a prediction today that President Nixon will agree soon - to set some sort of cut-off date on U. S. involvement in Vietnam. This - according to Senate negotiators; who insist that such is the price the President must pay - in order to obtain a new extension of the draft.

If the Administration was weakening though - it was not readily apparent. On the contrary, Defense Secretary Melvin Laird again stressing today - the importance of a speedy resumption of the draft. Explaining that the present situation - is causing increased instability and turbulence in the nation's manpower picture. Further suggesting that it may be necessary to call up - thousands of men whose student deferments have just expired; and this - regardless of their standings in the draft lottery.