

Wednesday, December 6, 1972
At CBS - 57th Street

KANSAS CITY

Harry Truman is waging tonight - the fight of his life; the fight - for his life. The doughty ex-President - at eighty-eight - suffering from pulmonary congestion complicated by age. He's eighty-eight. At Research Hospital in Kansas City - his condition slipping today from "fair" to "serious," which means that recovery - is now "uncertain." Doctors adding that the former Chief Executive - is being helped to breathe by "inhalation therapy."

On the brighter side - Bess Truman is right there by his side, as always. And when asked whether she was still displaying her customary courage - an aide replying: "You know darn well she is." And Mr. Truman himself - as we all know - a fighter all the way. When last he was quoted on the subject - saying he expected to live "at least till Ninety." Adding: "There's still a lot I want to do."

CAPE KENNEDY

At Cape Kennedy - Apollo-Seventeen; That's all there is - there isn't anymore. The nation's last scheduled moon-shoot - set for blast-off tonight at Nine-Fifty-Three, Eastern-time. This the manned space program's first nighttime launch - setting the pace for the toughest lunar mission yet. At last report - all systems go and counting.

The men of Apollo-Seventeen - Astronauts Gene Cernan, Ron Evans and Jack Schmidt - also fully primed. A space agency spokesman saying they are "most anxious to go; they all feel confident; they are charged up and ready!" With every tick of the clock - the time drawing nearer. And you can follow it all right here - on many of these CBS Radio stations.

PARIS

In Vietnam today - the greatest number of enemy rocket attacks in more than two weeks; so we hear from U.S. Command. Eighty, in all; including a massive barrage - against the big Tan Son Nhut air base near Saigon.

While in Paris - peace talks were continuing. U.S. and North Vietnamese negotiators - working right through lunch. Today's parley lasting five-and-a-half hours - longest yet in the current series. And when it was all over - for what it's worth - they smiled broadly for photographers and shook hands all around.

Here at home - the White House disclosing that President Nixon and Henry Kissinger - have exchanged "a number of cables." A spokesman adding only that the two sides - will meet again tomorrow.

CAMP DAVID

Just back from Florida - following a brief stopover at the White House - President Nixon was once again at Camp David today; there announcing the appointment of South Carolina textile manufacturer Frederick Dent - to be his new Secretary of Commerce.

The President thus nearing completion - of his second-term Cabinet; leaving only the posts of Transportation Secretary and Attorney General - still officially undecided.

VISIT'S FOLLOW CAMP DAVID

Camp David again - an official announcement today that Jordan's tough, young King Hussein - will soon visit the U.S. This "a private visit" - we are told - but he will meet with the President.

It was also indicated that Britain's Prime Minister Heath - will pay a similar call; although on that - nothing official as yet.

Reverse side - a report that President Nixon is considering another trip to Europe; perhaps in February - or March.

DEMOCRATS

Back in Washington - the formation of a new "Coalition for a Democratic Majority;" a group of some eighty Democrats - including three Congressman and key officials in seven labor unions; all pledging a common effort - to wrest control of the Democratic Party from pro-McGovern forces.

This new Coalition - also issuing what it called a "manifesto;" saying that Senator McGovern's defeat - had been "a stern lesson;" but adding that it gave the Democrats - "an historic opportunity as well." How? By serving as "a clear signal - to the Democratic Party;" a signal "to return to the great tradition through which it had come to represent the wishes and hopes of a majority of the American people."

BELFAST

In a back alley at Belfast in Northern Ireland police today found the body of a man who had been shot several times through the head. On the face of it - no apparent motive. Victim Number one hundred and five - in a long series of seemingly senseless murders.

The British regent in Northern Ireland - William Whitelaw - immediately ordering a special police task-force to take over the case. He also called for public help - in bringing to justice, as he put it, "these psycopathic killer's" Whitelaw adding that "shielding someone responsible for this murder madness - is only going to delay the day when Northern Ireland is once again at peace."

MOSCOW

The world's first freely-elected Marxist President
- a visitor today in Moscow. Chile's President Allende -
getting a warm reception from Kremlin leaders; followed
shortly - by the start of three days of scheduled talks.
An aide to Allende saying that economic assistance - "will
be Numero Uno on the agenda." He had flown there via New
York. Only yesterday he and his entourage were encognito at
The Waldorf.

CALGARY

An incredible survival story - is reported today from Calgary up in Canada. Thirty-nine-year-old Fred Kopmann - taking his three sons on a Sunday outing into the Northern Rockies; when suddenly - a blinding snowstorm. The Kopmann's four-wheel-drive vehicle - getting hung up in eighteen inches of snow.

For five hours - they waited patiently for help. By then, they were out of gas - no more heat. Kopmann bundling the boys up as he best he could - setting off alone on foot. "Only five miles to the main highway" - or so he thought. But it took him fifteen hours - and forty miles - to reach help. The father - suffering severe frostbite; but his three sons - when finally rescued today - still hale and hearty.

From his hospital bed - Kopmann telling of his ordeal. Saying: "I was tempted to give in to exhaustion - I would feel my eyes closing and know that I was lapsing into unconsciousness. I would be glad it would be all over soon -

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*and then I would think of those children waiting for me,
depending on me - and I would get up again and go on and on
and on."*

DIAMONDS

"Diamonds are a girl's best friend" - so said Anita Loes. Now comes a report that industrial diamonds - are bringing a new sparkle to business and industry.

For example, Italian pasta makers switching to diamond circular saws - to cut up uncooked spaghetti, macaroni, lasagne and the like. Where steel blades used to last only two hours - the new diamond blades lasting nearly two months. Diamond-bladed machines are also being used - to remove bumps from highways and airport runways; to shape and polish everything - from billiard balls to pistons; even to serve as transistors - in radio telescopes.

Perhaps the most incredible of all though - specially-drilled diamonds that are used for making metal strands as thin as gossamer threads. The process - recently described in the National Geographic; which says it's like "putting a wire you cannot see - through a hole that is not there."

ST. LOUIS

St. Louis, Missouri - the trial of alleged skyjacker Martin McNally; hearing today - from stewardess Jennifer Dumanois; who told how a private citizen - had crashed his car into the jet in question; attempting to thwart the skyjacking - entirely on his own.

Miss Dumanois - also relating McNally's reaction. The defendant quoted as saying: "What kind of a nut would crash into a plane like this? He must be crazier than I am."