

L.T. -BUICK, FISHER. MONDAY, JUNE 6, 1966

(Dallas Townsend, substiting)

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

James Meredith was shot and wounded from ambush late today in Mississippi. The man who broke the Color Barrier at the University of Mississippi was on the second day of his march through the state -- to encourage negro voter registration. Late this afternoon he was walking along Highway Fifty-one, near the town of Hernando, when shots were fired from a patch of woods. Meredith was rushed to a hospital in Memphis, twenty miles away, where authorities say he will survive. Police say a white man, James Norvell, has admitted the shooting. President Johnson calls it "an awful act of violence."...which every sensible American deplores. He ordered the Attorney General to spare no effort to bring the guilty person or persons to justice.

SPACE

For all the disappointment in space -- a blazing finish here below for astronauts Tom Stafford and Gene Cernan. The two intrepid spacemen today completing a pinpoint precision landing in the Western Atlantic -- as you have doubtless heard by now. Marking an end -- to the flight of the Gemini-Nine; all the more remarkable -- for its great achievement in the face of constant adversity.

The landing itself -- picture perfect. In full view-- of the Carrier Wasp; and thus for the first time--in full view of millions of Americans watching by television. Number one fan--President Johnson. Who quickly telephoned his congratulations -- for "one of the finest chapters in our whole space program" -- said he; for top performance and continuing courage -- under mounting pressure.

Obviously tired and a bit drawn at first -- the two men later completing a post-flight medical check-up; emerging fully relaxed at mid-afternoon -- for the flight back to Cape Kennedy. Three days of debriefing there -- to be followed by more of the same at Houston.

After Twelve years of costly battle -- Dr. Samuel Sheppard has scored a decisive legal victory. The Supreme Court today reversing conviction of the Cleveland osteopath-- in the Nineteen-Fifty-Four slaying of his pregnant wife Marilyn. Ordering that he be given a new trial -- or that he be set free.

In the court's majority opinion -- Justice Tom Clark laying chief blame for the decision -- on Trial Judge Edward Blythin. Asserting that Judge Blythin did not "fulfill his duty--to protect Sheppard from the inherently prejudicial publicity which saturated the community" at the time. Also-- that he failed "to control disruptive influences in the courtroom"; namely -- a crowd of newsmen.

County Prosecutor John T. Corrigan later reporting from Cleveland -- that he would decide in a day or two whether to retry the case. As for Dr. Sam -- who has been free pending outcome of the appeal -- he himself said: "I am ready to go to trial now." Adding: "I want -- complete vindication."

VIET NAM

Political crisis in Viet Nam -- still at fever pitch.

Ten civilians today accepting a government offer -- to join the existing Ten-man ruling military junta. A previously-agreed upon move -- aimed at ending Buddhist-inspired unrest.

Forty-Three South Vietnamese generals -- later expressing "full confidence" in Premier Ky and his entire government.

Not so -- the Buddhists. Instead, a blistering anti-government, anti-American speech -- from Buddhist leader Nhat Thuong in Saigon. Criticising President Johnson -- as "irresponsible." Further predicting that Premier Ky and Chief of State Nguyen Van Thieu -- would be "killed in a coup d'etat." Buddhist reaction at Hue -- even stronger. Threatened violence there apparently averted -- only by a torrential monsoon rain.

On the fighting front -- U.S. officials today disclosed the second sneak attack within a month -- on that big U.S. helicopter base at An Khe. However, damage called "light" -- mainly because of tightened security around the jungle field.

SUGGESTED LEAD-IN TO THOMAS TAPE:

Lowell Thomas is taking time out today -- to deliver a commencement address at the United States Air Force Academy. In the meantime, a report he left us -- of timely interest.

ALMA

The U.S. Weather bureau at Miami has a report of what could be a disaster in Honduras. The report, from Honduran weather men, says that thirty inches of rain virtually obliterated the town of San Rafael, in western Honduras, and more than seventy persons are reported dead.

A low pressure storm center in the Caribbean -- boiled up quickly today into a rare June hurricane. Once spawned -- off the coast of Honduras -- Hurricane Alma pointing her Seventy-Five-mile-an-hour winds -- straight at Cuba. The storm expected to increase in intensity -- as it heads northward.

Besides being early -- Alma is also something of a maverick. Most June storms -- heading for the Gulf of Mexico. The Weather Bureau advising, that no June storm -- has ever touched the U.S. mainland.

Stuart -- Let's hope we're not in for an exception.

KENNEDY

At Cape Town, South Africa -- Senator Robert Kennedy of New York today delivered the first public address -- of his current African tour. Urging South African students to take the leadership -- in making theirs a more just and democratic society.

Senator Kennedy declaring that "the enlargement of liberty -- must be the supreme goal and the abiding practice of any Western Society." "The essential humanity of men can be protected and preserved" -- he went on -- "only where government must answer not only to the wealthy -- not only just to those of a particular religion or a particular race -- but to all its people."

The words of Robert Kennedy in Cape Town.

GOOD NIGHT