

L. T. - OLDS, FISHER - THURSDAY, MAY 21, 1964

(Anchorage, Alaska)

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

Have you heard of the all-America City Award made each year by the National Municipal League -- and LOOK Magazine? This year the award was voted to the smallest city ever to win the honor -- Seward, Alaska. Population less than two thousand; along with Kansas City, Missouri, population half a million. The award was announced on Thursday, March twenty-sixth, and the following day the spectacular little city of Seward was hit by the most violent North American earthquake of which we have any record; and by three tidal waves.

Lowell, Jr. and I made the flight to Seward in the same little single engine plane in which he had flown all over the world and that he still uses for getting around this, the most

air-minded of all our fifty states.

One hundred and seventy-two years ago, Baranof and his Russian associates selected the head of one of Alaska's most beautiful fjords as a town site. Baranof named it Voskresenskaia, which means Resurrection. Today, this stunning fjord is called Resurrection Bay and the city renamed for Lincoln's Secretary of State, who made an even better deal than the Dutch did when they bought Manhattan Island from the Indians. Resurrection Bay, a year-round ice-free harbor, and you haven't seen all of the wonders of the world if you haven't seen Resurrection Bay.

This time I got my first view of it since the earthquake, as we flew in over Seward. With its ships and boats hurled up on dry land by the tidal waves that followed the quake; with its piers and docks smashed and twisted; with some of its houses literally strewn around by the quake and the tides; and with massive railway locomotives, and perhaps a hundred coaches and

freight cars, on their sides, strewn along the waterfront, it looked as though some evil giant had been playing with Seward, this all-America city as children sometimes play with toys.

When we landed we were met by the President of the Seward Chamber of Commerce, who looks a little like Santa Claus, and laughs like him. Sol and Dick Kirkpatrick, local head of Uncle Sam's railway up here, gave me what they called "The Six-Bit Tour." And then I met perhaps a fourth of the population. Not once did I hear a complaint; but I did hear a lot of laughter, and I could easily see where they are working night and day to rebuild Seward, and make it better than ever. Almost every person had a wild story to tell of his personal experiences the night of the earthquake. There was the waterfront worker, who was swept out into the Bay on a big timber. Then suddenly, right in the middle of the Bay he found himself on dry land. The backwash of the first tidal wave had been so great that for

a few moments it actually emptied part of that great Bay.

Whereupon this chap ran for the shore, made it, and kept right on going up the nearest mountain, a mountain called Marathon where each year they stage the maddest race in the world -- up the mountain and down again.

For the lack of time I'll sum up by saying that the people of Seward, including their inspired City Manager, Bill Harrison, all say: "We were voted an all-America city; then that record earthquake nearly destroyed us; but, we are going to be better than ever."

STEVENSON

Adlai Stevenson seemed to best his best today at the U.N. rising to the occasion when he outlined our Southeast Asian policy to the General Assembly. Informing his colleagues that we will not permit a Red takeover; that we will support that area as long as its people ask for our help. And that a major world crisis may be in the making -- if the Red aggression continues.

LAOS

One big question is being asked today: -- Have the Russians lost to the Chinese Reds -- in Laos? With Mao Tse Tung -- responsible for the present Red offensive and Khrushchev -- unable to do anything about it.

KHRUSHCHEV

Also has Khrushchev made a major blunder -- in Egypt?  
He was cheered everywhere -- until he condemned Arab Nationalism and called on the Arabs to unite under Communism, follow the lead -- of Moscow, give up the dream -- of a self-contained Arab World; drop -- Arab Nationalism.

Tonight, newspapers from Lebanon to Kuwait are warning the Soviet Premier to keep his nose out of Arab affairs. Advising him not to propagandize for Communism -- which appears to be falling apart.

## NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

It would take an hour to tell you some of the better stories I picked up in Seward. But, with the awe-inspiring snow-capped mountains that line Resurrection Bay for a background, for a moment let's take a look at the rest of the world.



## SHORTS

At Saint Mary's Episcopal Church in Rockport, Massachusetts, the Reverend Frank Potter has been telling his feminine parishioners that it's okay to attend Sunday Service in shorts.

But in Mar Del Plata, Argentina, the Dean of the College has ordered the belles of the pampas -- to leave their shorts at home. And wear dresses -- when they attend classes.

Abbreviated costumes in church, in Massachusetts -- but not in class in Argentina. Another difference between North and South America.

## TRAVEL AGENTS

I've always found it stimulating and exciting to spend a little time in an Alaskan Hotel, because of the people you meet -- hunters, oil men, gold miners, bush pilots, mountain climbers (a crack French mountaineering team is here in Alaska at the moment), government officials, men on their way to the Dew Line, maybe a few Eskimos and Indians, and so on. At present this is more so than ever. Breakfast with Former Cabinet Member, Fred Seaton, a Methodist Bishop stopping me in the corridor to tell me the Methodists already have raised about a million dollars to more than restore all their property knocked out by the earthquake, and so on. Interesting women, too, you always find them in Alaska -- a Bryn Mawr graduate who flew as a hostess on one of the most incredible airlines in the world, THE REEVE ALEUTIAN, now married to a local doctor. And then, at the moment, there are some two hundred and twenty-five travel agents up here from the south forty-eight, owners and operators of the principal travel agencies in the Western states. They

had heard as I had heard, that many prospective tourists were cancelling out for this Summer, afraid there might be another earthquake, or that the recent one had knocked out all the hotels and Inns up here, and they've been finding out just as I have that actually there are more and better accommodations for travellers this Summer than ever before. A number of new hotels. So if you are thinking of visiting Alaska, now is the time to do it. Our forty-ninth state is always an inspiring place to visit; and in these weeks and months following the great earthquake it's more interesting and inspiring than ever.

And now that expert on travel, Dick Noel.

## FINAL PIECE

In moments of crisis human beings are likely to do curious things. At Seward, Alaska, when the earthquake hit, one building badly damaged was an electrical appliance store where at the first blast all the windows shattered. The proprietor made a dash for the door, and as he went out, he locked it! Then as he was running up the street he thought how silly that was when all of his windows were gone.

Between Seward and Anchorage is another of nature's wonders just as awe-inspiring as the great fjord called Resurrection Bay. Lowell, Jr. and I have just crossed and re-crossed the great Harding Ice Field, in the center of the Kenai Peninsula, a region of glaciers and icy mountains where there isn't a living thing.

And, now, from Seward, Alaska, the all-America city, and from Resurrection Bay, so long until tomorrow.