

Thursday, January 25, 1973

Good Evening everybody,

Washington and perhaps more important,

Hanoi, today both seemed equally determined to make

the cease fire work. North Vietnam's Foreign

Minister, Nguyen Duy Trinh, in Paris was saying that

Hanoi "pledges itself jointly with the Viet Cong -

to "execute scrupulously" the terms of the cease

fire agreement. This - said he - in hopes that the

other signatory parties will do the same."

In the saga of Lyndon Baines Johnson - the longest day; starting out - well before midnight; with a steady stream of mourners - filing past his flag draped coffin in the Capitol Rotunda. The line stretching, at times - more than ten blocks; through a maze of deserted inaugural stands - past the Supreme Court Building - on and on into the darkness.

And all night long - they continued to come. More than forty thousand, in all - paying their last respects to a great American. Right up to eight o'clock - when the Rotunda was officially closed.

An hour later - the family arriving for a brief moment of prayer. The former first lady - escorted by James Cross, LBJ's pilot when he was President. And then, as he did yesterday, little Lyn Nugent saluting his grandfather's casket - as it was lifted from the catafalque.

*The former President's pallbearers -
consisting of eight men from different branches of
the armed services; who tenderly, almost lovingly,
escorted the body to the National City Christian
Church - for final rites.*

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CHURCH FOLLOW CAPITOL

President Nixon was there waiting along with Spiro Agnew, Dean Rusk, Hubert Humphrey, Eugene McCarthy, George McGovern, Sargent Shriver, and hundreds more; indeed, a whole panoply of official Washington - over the past twenty years - rising as one as the former President's body ~~was~~ was borne down the aisle to the strains of "Dear Lord And Father of Mankind." Dr. George Davis, the pastor of National City Church - ^{invoking} ~~invoking~~ the Lord's Blessing. Saying: "Often, we have walked to the mournful sound of muffled drums." But, "we have come here today" - he continued - "to celebrate a sunrise - to celebrate the glorious trumpets of God." And this was the spirit - of most of the service that followed.

Metropolitan Opera star Leontyne Price - singing "Take My Hand, Precious Lord," and "Onward

Christian Soldiers." Followed by a reading from the
Twenty-Third Psalm, ^{also} the hymn, "In Christ There
Is No East or West," one of L B J's favorites.

And then the first of two eulogies.

WATSON FOLLOW CHURCH

Former Postmaster General W. Marvin Watson, a life-long friend of L B J praising the former President as a "tall man with giant character."

Observing, as President Nixon had earlier, "it was his noble and difficult destiny - to lead America through a long, dark night of ~~incredible~~ necessity ~~and~~ at home and abroad."

Watson going on to say: "If he could have chosen other circumstances ~~it would have~~ in which to be President - perhaps he would have; but America has a capacity" he continued - "to call forth the leadership it must have in those hours of its ~~greatest~~ greatest need. We had Abraham Lincoln," said the Speaker. When he was needed, we had Franklin Roosevelt - when he was needed; and history will record that in the seventh decade of the Twentieth Century - America had Lyndon Johnson when he was ^{needed,} _s

~~needed.~~"

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Watson adding "those of us who love him can take comfort from the knowledge that before he died he could see the dawn of domestic tranquility - and a foreign peace which he gave so much of his great heart to bring about." "And the structure of peace that President Nixon, with great distinction and determination, is building in the world today" - said he - "will rest upon a foundation laid by loneliness and stubborn courage."

Watson concluding, his voice breaking now: "That was Lyndon Baines Johnson, the thirty-sixth President of the United States of America - and the years will be lonely without him."

DAVIS FOLLOW WATSON

Next Dr. Davis himself; comparing the qualities of the former President with those of Moses; "the same hardness of discipline" - said he; "great decisions - sitting on top of a volcano you didn't create - trying to control it."

Doctor Davis adding: "Lyndon Johnson dead but alive - alive in the age in which we live, an age committed to the tasks in which he believed."

STONE WALL ~~FOLLOW TEXAS~~
Texas,

The body of the former President - was then flown to the Texas hill country he loved so much. At a brief graveside service at Stonewall, Texas - Billy Graham saying: "He came from here - and now he's back."

Former Texas Governor John Connally also praising LBJ - as "a man whose whole life embodies the spirit and home of America." "Lyndon Johnson made his dreams come true" - said Connolly - "because he saw the real opportunity of this land." Connolly adding: "He first saw light here - he last felt life here - may he now find peace here."

Through all of this - Lady Bird Johnson remaining a tower of strength. When friends attempted to comfort her - remarking quietly: "I've had thirty-eight wonderful years - what more could I ask?"

ISLAND OF HEYMAEY

On the island of Heymaey off the south coast of Iceland - Helgafjell Volcano was continuing its fireworks today; pouring forth a torrent of lava - into the sea; raising water temperatures - to more than a hundred and ten degrees. A spokesman for the harbor command saying: "The sea water is so hot - it is hard to keep the engines properly cooled." The engines in question - those of police boats and pilot boats holding off shiploads of mainlanders attempting to get a better look.

Additional streams of lava - are also pouring into the deserted town of Vestmannaeyjar; where buildings have collapsed - and more are burning. It was here, too, that Iceland's President Eldjarn - paid a brief inspection visit today. "I am as horrified as anyone by this disaster" - said he. A geological expert from Reykjavik University - also present. Observing Bill, that "It is hard to say how long the eruption may last - it could go on for three weeks - or three years."

SUN VALLEY

This also was a day of mourning at Sun Valley, Idaho. In the Opera House, so familiar to skiers, a memorial service was held for Anne Janss - wife of the man who took over Sun Valley from the Union Pacific Railroad.

Anne Janss was killed this week in an avalanche. A tragedy of this sort is rare in our mountains. In the Alps where so many people live in narrow valleys at the foot of precipitous mountains many are killed every year by avalanches. In American there have been two this year, one in December at Aspen, Colorado.

The tragedy at Sun Valley did not occur where skiers normally go. Anne Janss and my sometimes ski companion Serge Gagarin, with two other companions and four men of the forestry service, had flown by helicopter to Balcom Ridge above Trail Creek Lodge, some miles from the usual Sun Valley ski slopes and trails. All members of the party were caught by the avalanche. All the others came through

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**this mountain nightmare except Anne Janss who was under
the snow for nearly an hour.**