

Lowell Thomas
October 19, 1966
(Dallas Townsend)

WELLINGTON

Good evening, everybody---A warm and friendly reception today for President Johnson--in Wellington, New Zealand.

Setting the stage for the President's first major speech--on his current tour of the Pacific and Asia. A speech remarkable for its emphasis on hope--instead of hostility.

The President urging North Viet Nam--to forsake the present battlefield--to join in a "different kind of war." A fight--said he--for human dignity and economic progress; against the common enemies of poverty, disease and ignorance; that abound in Southeast Asia.

If Hanoi will join that kind of war--said the President--the United States will also enlist for the duration; until the job--is done.

Next stop--Australia.

VIET NAM FOLLOW WELLINGTON

While--the shooting war goes on. South Vietnamese troops today bearing the brunt of battle--in two major engagements.

In the rice-rich Maykong Delta--about twelve hundred government soldiers--locked in combat with a Viet Cong force of comparable size. While in the Central Highlands-- a two-pronged government assault--credited with killing more than a hundred-and-forty of the enemy.

But--relative calm has returned to the political front. Seven cabinet members who had earlier resigned--eventually reconsidering and agreeing to a temporary truce with Premier Ky. At least until after--that forthcoming Manila conference on Viet Nam.

ISRAEL

Renewed violence today--in the Holy Land. Reports from Jerusalem--telling of a gun battle in Northern Israel. An Israeli Army patrol--stumbled on a band of Arab infiltrators from Lebanon. The brief battle leaving at least three Arabs dead--also one Israeli.

This the latest in a series of border incidents--that have threatened to set off a full-scale war in the Middle East. Occuring even as U.N. observers--a short distance away-- were doing their best to maintain peace along the tense Israeli-Syrian frontier.

Racial trouble today in East Oakland, California.

Several hundred students got out of control at Castlemont High School, which is predominantly Negro. They beat up five white teachers, jostled white students eating lunch. Castlemont High was thereupon closed. The reason, according to Stuart Phillips, the Oakland school superintendent--fear of physical violence.

In the same area of East Oakland, more than a hundred other Negro youths created a disturbance at a food market. This followed a rampage last night in which teenage gangs roamed the streets for several hours. Apparently it all arose out of calls for a three-day boycott of junior and senior high schools..organizers of the boycott alleging that education at three predominantly Negro schools in Oakland is inferior.

OSLO

The long-awaited verdict from Norway's Nobel Peace Prize Committee--in effect, a sad commentary on world conditions. The committee announcing in Oslo--that there will be no Nobel Peace Prize this year.

In keeping with tradition--the awards group giving no reason for its decision. Stating simply that the fifty-eight thousand dollars in prize money--will be held in reserve; with the possibility that two prizes--may be awarded next year; one for nineteen-sixty-six--another for nineteen-sixty-seven. This in line with what happened in nineteen-fifty-three; when General George C. Marshall of the U.S.--received the nineteen-fifty-two Peace Prize a year late.

In the wake of today's announcement--observers speculating that if there ever is a Nobel Peace Prize for 1966,--it will go to the man who helps most to end the war in Viet Nam.

SUGGESTED LEAD-IN TO THOMAS TAPE

With Lowell Thomas far across the Atlantic--another special report tonight from Lowell; on sightseeing--in London.

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SKIRTS

Hello Dallas, Good Evening Everybody:

While visiting London - birthplace of the mini-skirt - now what better place to observe that milady's hemlines are now soaring to new heights. The latest - here in London - the so-called skirt band hardly more than a wide belt.

A London sociologist tells me skirts may one day disappear. For which there is a precedent, he says, in that men's skirts did disappear centuries ago. The ladies are now rather late in catching up.

Of course Roman citizens as we know wore togas; and, it was more than two thousand years ago - that the skirt wearing Roman soldiers first encountered German tribesmen wearing two legged robes. Quite an idea - they thought - especially in the frigid north. But even wearing trousers or tights - the well-dressed man continued to

wear a short dress or tunic from Roman days right down through the Middle Ages. And even much later for the Scots and the Irish, and the Greeks too. Only in comparatively recent times - the tunic gave way to a short coat - or suit jacket.

By contrast - women bundled up in long skirts - well into the Twentieth Century. It wasn't until Nineteen Twelve - that the so-called "decent woman" even dared bare her ankles.

One thing is certain.. Skirts are getting shorter - in London. In fact, milady's tights are more and more popular, to the point where the stylish maiden of today - is dressed about like Columbus was five hundred years ago - remember?

Solong,

CINCINNATI

Nearly six-and-a-half million young Americans--an all-time record number--were enrolled in U.S. colleges this fall. The figure according to an estimate by Dr. Garland Parker of the University of Cincinnati; based on preliminary reports--from schools across the nation.

The new record attributed to sophomores and juniors--who are continuing their education in growing numbers. Dr. Parker noting, however, that freshman enrollment--was down about two-and-a-half per cent this year. The drop-off--said he-- partly because of the draft; partly because of a decline in the national birth rate--in the late 1940's.

CONGRESS

As predicted yesterday and expected all along--that proposed quickie increase in Social Security benefits--has now been lost in the last-minute shuffle in Congress. Chairman Wilbur Mills of the House Ways and Means Committee--officially dropping the proposal; with an announcement that there must be public hearings on the matter--and they can't be held before Congress adjourns.

Mills pledging, however, that a benefit-increasing bill--will be the committee's "first order of business" in January; in line with the recommendation first made by President Johnson. But where the President urged the increase to take effect in nineteen-sixty-eight--Mills indicating the measure may be effective as of January First 1967. The next best thing --said he--to a "quickie" increase right now.

SENATE FOLLOW CONGRESS

The Senate began to pick up steam today--in its own race for adjournment.

To begin with--the Senate Appropriations Committee-- approving a House-passes supplemental appropriations bill; a catch-all measure--that represents the final money bill of the session.

The full Senate later approving by voice vote--the Administration's so-called "truth in packaging" bill. Senator Hart of Michigan; it's chief sponsor, calling the final version of the bill--stronger by far than either of the earlier House of Senate versions. The measure now goes to the White House-- for the President's signature.

PARIS

After twenty-four hours of playing hide-and-seek with French authorities--the deputy chief of Morocco's Secret Service surrendered today to Paris police. Major Ahmed Dlimi --who was soon to be judged in absentia--announcing himself ready now to answer personally; to French charges that he helped engineer the kidnapping and murder--of Moroccan Opposition Leader Mehdi Ben Barka; who was visiting in Paris--at the time of the crime.

However, the practical effect of Dlimi's surrender--only adding to the confusion that surrounds the case. By forcing temporary suspension of a related trial--of five Frenchmen and one Moroccan--who were captured earlier in the affair. In fact, some experts--doubtign that the trial will ever resume.

Under French law--courtroom proceedings to date would have to be annulled--if Dlimi now should agree to testify. The prosecution thus faced with the prospect--of starting all over again from scratch.

MOSCOW

Last week from Moscow--joyful news of a record-breaking Russian grain crop; fully justifying agrarian reforms--put into effect by the new regime. This week--news that perhaps as much as a half-billion dollars' worth of that record crop--may be lost forever. The reason--poor planning.

Informed sources in Moscow calling the crop--too much of a good thing, if that's possible. So much grain--in the face of shortage of silos and refrigerated warehouses--that there's no place to put it. The problem at its worst--we're told--in the virgin lands of Kazakhstan; where a bumper wheat crop--seems to have caught the planners completely by surprise.

A crash program ordered by the Kremlin earlier this year--to expand agriculture storage space. But results apparently too little--and now, it seems, too late.

CHICAGO

From New York to California--reports today of a spreading housewives' boycott--against high food prices. A Hundred Thousand women in Denver alone--said to have joined the protest movement. Forcing at least a token cut in food prices --in one of the city's leading chain stores.

Be that as it may--a prediction today in Chicago; that the average American food bill--is likely to climb still higher in nineteen-sixty-seven. Michael O'Connor of the National Supermarket Institute--blaming the expected increase on labor costs, transportation costs, higher taxes and foreign aid--not to mention the war in Viet Nam.

In truth--said O'Connor--"the old horn of plenty--is not as bountiful as it used to be."

Good night,