

L.T. SUSTAINING, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 1966

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

Election Day weather -- something less than perfect.

Early voters wading through snow -- in the central Rockies and northern Colorado. With reports of rain -- in the East, mid-west and far west.

Nevertheless there was quite an outpouring of voters right across the land. With election officials predicting a record off-year turn-out -- of anywhere from fifty-five to sixty million voters.

The outcome -- in most places -- still too early to tell. But for latest results -- of course stay tuned to your CBS station.

ELECTION

According to CBS News Vote profile

Analysis, in the Kentucky Senatorial race, ^Republican incumbent John Sherman Cooper has easily won re-election over his Democratic opponent, State Representative John Young Brown. Cooper, sixty-five, may ~~will~~ carry the negro vote in Kentucky, which would be a tribute to his long record in favor of civil rights legislation.

Radio

CBS news election night coverage begins at seven ^{o'clock} ~~o'clock~~ Eastern Standard Time.

JOHNSON CITY, TEXAS

Among the first to cast their ballots today -- President and Mrs. Johnson. LBJ and Lady Bird turning up at the local polling place in Johnson City, Texas a half hour before it was scheduled to open. But no problem. Johnson City's chief election Judge remarking of the President -- "He's the head man -- so we just let him in."

The President -- in a merry mood -- praised "members of both parties" -- who have "written a fine record" -- said he -- in Congress and elsewhere. If a man "votes for what's best for his country -- he'll vote for what's best for him" -- said the President.

RANCH FOLLOW JOHNSON CITY, TEXAS

Back at the L B J ranch - the President later signed into law - three anti-crime measures approved in the closing days of Congress. One ~~of them~~ - - allowing for medical treatment rather than imprisonment - for drug addicts. Designed - said the President - "to help end the chain reaction of misery - where addicts turn to crime to support their addiction." All three of the bills - said he - adding to the effectiveness of "our national war" against crime.

VIET NAM

On the other side of the globe - in Viet Nam - news today of ~~an unprecedented act of~~^{more} Viet Cong terrorism. Communist guerillas in the Mekong Delta - enraged by waning support among peasants - kidnapping an entire village. Marching off at ~~200~~ gunpoint - a hundred or more Vietnamese men, women and children. ~~The whole lot and kaboodle~~ apparently destined for jungle captivity - on ~~worse~~.

The village - ~~that of~~ Long Vinh, ^{once} a refugee center for farmers who had fled Viet Cong-domination -- in rice-rich areas of the ~~Mekong~~ Mekong Delta. Now ~~suddenly~~ - a ghost town.

Better news to the North - where American forces today wrapped up a ~~stunning battlefield~~ victory - in another area - near the Cambodian border, & once considered an impregnable Communist stronghold.

→ U S infantrymen sweeping through a ~~base~~ base
camp - that served until ~~recently~~ recently as Viet Cong
headquarters for ^{a vast area,} ~~the whole territory.~~ There finding
an additional - three hundred and twenty four bodies.

Raising Communist losses to more than seven hundred
and fifty dead - in five days of fighting ^{that has} ~~now apparently~~
ended - in a complete ^{Viet Cong} ~~Communist~~ rout.

MANILA FOLLOW VIET NAM

Meanwhile, in the Philippines - a cloud of controversy - today -- in the aftermath of that recent ~~SEVEN~~ seven-nation Manila conference. The Philippine foreign office accused of leaking to newsmen - certain "top secret" tape recordings made during the summit meeting. This according to "executive report" - a semi-official Filipino newsletter.


The charge apparently based on a story last week - in a Manila newspaper. Supposedly reporting actual dialogue - from secret discussions among the various heads of state. The story asserting that President Johnson for one, cursed - pounded the table - and generally behaved like - quote - "the angriest hawk ~~ix~~ of all" -- unquote.

~~"Executive report" today suggesting the news story - was the result of leakage to "press elements openly sympathetic to the enemy." Implied that these "press elements" - proceeded to slant and distort what really was said at the meeting.~~

SPACE

America's Lunar orbiter-Two -- dead on target tonight.
Racing toward the Moon -- at a speed of some two thousand
miles an hour. Already two-thirds of the way.

A few tense moments this morning -- when the spacecraft
briefly lost its "fix" on the Star Canopus; forcing
temporary postponement of a critical mid-course maneuver.
However, the "fix" was re-set this afternoon -- permitting
successful correction of trajectory.

At last report -- Lunar Orbiter-Two is said to be
"on a bullseye  path to the moon."

CAPE KENNEDY

At Cape Kennedy -- final reviews and briefings today -- for Gemini-Twelve astronauts Jim Lovel and Buzz Aldrin; interrupted suddenly by a twenty-four hour delay -- in tomorrow's scheduled start of their four-day space mission.

Space officials blaming the postponement -- on a problem in the autopilot of the Titan booster rocket. Adding, however, that they hope to be all set for blast-off Thursday afternoon.

VATICAN

From the Vatican ~~in Rome~~ - news today that the Pope has appointed a special commission; to study the question of collaboration with other christian faiths - in the preparation of a common Bible.

The study group to be headed by Father Walter Abbott- a Boston-born American Jesuit; ^{who} won support ~~of~~ ~~on this at~~ ~~the recent ecumenical council.~~ [^]

The project already endorsed - by the United Bible Societies Council; a world-wide inter-faith church organization - that distributes copies of the Bible to christians and non-christians alike.

BEIRUT BANK

Here's a footnote on that Beirut, Lebanon, bank debacle. My wife and I happened to fly into Beirut just at the moment when all thirty-three of Beirut's banks were closed. Beirut, as you ~~is~~ no doubt have heard, in recent years, has become one of the glamor cities of the world. Since World War Two, it has tripled in population; and it's startling to see the number of tall buildings, literally scores of them, now overlooking the Eastern Mediterranean, at ~~Beirut~~ ^{the} capital of Lebanon, — a city ~~and~~ inhabited by many races of people, including a great many who claim to be descended from the ancient Phoenicians.

The Beirut bank crisis came about because two ~~of the~~ Middle East billionaires, the Sheikh of Kuwait and the King of Saudi Arabia, suddenly withdrew huge sums they had on deposit at Intra, the largest bank, of Beirut, But the people, when we were there, seemed to be taking the bank crisis in stride, and according to all

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reports, they ^{are now} ~~business are~~ solving their financial problems. [¶] To me the interesting sidelight is that the task of straightening out the affairs of that largest bank, the one called ~~Intoxark~~ Intra, has ^S ~~be~~ been turned over to a man with a ^{dramatic} ~~most unusual~~ life story.

During World War One, several members of Lawrence's personal bodyguard were ~~rather~~ wild-looking brigands from a place in Syria called Black Mountain -- ^{Tribesmen from there--} Jebel Druze. Lawrence told me ^{the} Druze were a fanatical Moslem sect, who preferred to keep ~~themselves~~ themselves cut off from the rest of the world. [¶] When I was with Lawrence, Najib Salha was a ten year old ~~an~~ orphan boy. And right after World War One, he was in an orphanage run by the British. From school he went to work for the British in the Sudan. Evidently he had ~~many~~ unusual talents, because it wasn't long until he became a Deputy ^{financ} ~~financ~~ minister under old King Abdul Aziz Ibn Saud,

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father of the present King of Saudi Arabia. In fact, he negotiated the fabulous Saudi Arabian oil concessions. On the side he did some speculating on his own that made him a rich man. How rich no one knows. But, he evidently ranks among the wealthiest men in the world. And now, he has been called in to solve the problems of the largest bank in the Middle East.

So, if you happen to be one of those who think this is an era when it isn't too easy to amass a fortune, well, consider the story of Najib Salha who not many years ago was a poor orphan boy in Syria.

MUNICH

Upwards of seventy thousand draft-age American men -- recently ordered re-examined by their local draft boards; to clarify their status -- under new government regulations for selective service.

One of them -- movie actor George Hamilton -- a beau of Lynda Bird Johnson. Hamilton was permitted to take his pre-induction physical today -- at a U.S. Army base in Munich, Germany. -- where he is currently making a movie.

After the test he said there would be no hesitation on his part -- if he is inducted into the Army. "It's my duty" said he; "if my country needs me -- I'll go -- even to Vietnam."

Hamilton adding that if drafted -- he would prefer not to serve as an entertainer or celebrity -- but rather as an ordinary infantryman. Now Allan Burns and solong until tomorrow.