

CPRA L.T. OLDS - FRIDA Y. APRIL 19, 1963

The first two questions from the floor, after
Good Evening Everybody: were about Cuba.

Today the President, as you perhaps know, was talking about economy. In his address, before the Society of Newspaper Editors, talking about ^{the} budget, why he thinks it has to be so big, and should not be drastically cut. The President was emphatic about getting

rid of it. One reason - defense. The need to keep ourselves and our allies strong - in the face of Red aggression. Second reason, the exploration of space. The need to keep up with the Russians and ultimately take the lead - in pioneering toward the moon and the planets. Reason three - the effect of spending on America - creating new jobs, putting money into circulation, and so on.

Kennedy philosophy - for drawing up our national balance sheet.

CUBA

The first two questions from the floor, after the President's speech - were about Cuba.

To begin with, President Kennedy denies that he promised another invasion of Cuba. And his administration has no plans right now - to get rid of Castro by force.

But, the President was emphatic about getting rid of Castro. In his words - "I don't accept the view that Castro will be in power in five years".

What to do now? A sensible understanding that our Cuba policy must be put into the context of our global policy. And finally, that Americans and Cubans do have the same objective - to restore democracy to Cuba.

STEEL MARKET

Our key to our national economy much in the news, and referred to by President Kennedy - steel. What about those price increases - by the companies?

Summing up, he accepts the argument that the increases are necessary - to make up for ^aone percent loss by the steel industry during the past four years.

Meanwhile, oddly enough - some of the increases are being rescinded. Smaller companies, dropping their price tags on steel plate in order to remain competitive with Big Steel.

Frank B. Switzer, of the University of California at Los Angeles, is in New York today, just back from Nepal and I have been talking to him. Also to The National Geographic Society in Washington, one of the principal financial backers.

Not many messengers have been coming back from the expedition. They must be having some difficulty. But we do have the word that the climbing party has reached the South Col - at twenty-six thousand feet. From there they plan two ascents, and both may be under

MT. EVEREST

This week, for the first time in the history of mountaineering, a group of American climbers are making an attempt as a part of a well organized expedition, to conquer the highest mountain in the world.

Some weeks ago, several amateurs made a bold attempt, but came back admitting they were just taking a wild shot at it. However, at any hour now, we may get word that the first American Everest expedition has either succeeded or failed.

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way at this moment -- one group to tackle the West Ridge, spoken of as the last great challenge left on Mt. Everest. No one has ever scaled the West Ridge.

Several other American climbers are going to strike for the summit via the South Side, the route taken by Hillary and Tensing.

It's quite likely that by now one climbing party has reached its last camp before the summit at 27,500. They may be there at this moment.

There were twenty climbers and scientists when the expedition left Katmandu, Nepal, some weeks ago. Also thirty-two Sherpas, the Tibetan mountaineers who are used on the assault, and nine hundred Nepalese porters carrying equipment and food to the main base camp.

Now there are only nineteen climbers and scientists, for Jake Breitenback, a twenty-seven year old mountaineer from the Tetons in Wyoming, was killed some days ago, when he and three others were exploring a way through the Khumbu Ice Fall, the route that leads

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to the South Col. They were at about twenty thousand feet, when a huge block of ice suddenly let go, crashed down, killing the young climber from Wyoming. The others luckily escaped.

The climbers on this first major American Mt. Everest expedition vary in age from twenty-three to forty-six, Norman Dyhrenfurth, the leader, who is forty-six, thinks he has an outside chance of making it to the summit.

The story of the expedition was to have been sent back in almost daily installments by that well known, novelist and mountain enthusiast, James Ramsey Ullman. But alas, Jim Ullman, had an attack of phlebitis, in Katmandu, and had to be taken out to India. I wish I were there in his place. Instead, with a few hours I'll be in for a few days on a mountain called Sugarloaf, that isn't quite as high as Everest. But, the report is that the snow on Sugarloaf is still four or five feet deep. So I'm off for one last ski Spring

MT. EVEREST - 4

fling, on a mountain in Maine, thinking about my friends on Mt. Everest - - hoping they make it to the top of the world's highest mountain.

Where would you expect helium to gather in immense clouds? In outer space? And - that's exactly where Explorer Seventeen found it. Our newest artificial satellite, orbiting through a belt of helium surrounding the earth. A girdle of gas, that begins about one hundred miles up, and continues for another five hundred miles.

After that - the cohesive power disappears. The helium molecules - racing away from the earth, across the solar system.

President Whitney Griswold of Yale, died today - after a long illness.

SPACE

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MAC ARTHUR

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A great American soldier today quoted - a great Roman writer. Douglas Mac Arthur, referring to Cicero's judgement - on historical studies. Namely - that without them, men are like children, Having no past experience - from which to judge the present and the future.

Occasion today - establishment of the Mac Arthur Chair of History at Columbia University. This Professorship - ~~more~~ ^{most} ~~appropriate than a few I could mention~~ ^{than a few I could} Named after - an authentic maker of history. Douglas Mac Arthur, considered by many - the foremost military genius of the twentieth century.

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As for Cicero - ~~well~~ ^{that} the old Roman made quite a bit of history himself, Until he got mixed up in - the plot to overthrow Augustus Caesar. After which, as they said in ancient Rome - "exit Cicero." ^{And} now Dick, Ill exit.

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CHURCHILL

Sir Winston Churchill has added yet another distinction - to his list. (He has one hundred and sixty already - in Who's Who.) Today he became the Governor General, George Vanier - along with about twenty members of his Cabinet. That record from none other than Gladstone, the eminent Victorian who was four times Prime Minister.

Neither Gladstone or Disraeli lived to the advanced age of Winston Churchill, who is eighty-eight years, four months and twenty-two days. Churchill - one day older than Gladstone.

The new Prime Minister announcing he will acquire - nuclear warheads for his country's armed forces, And maintain the "friendliest possible" relations - with the United States.

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Most people think the Opposition will not be in too big a hurry - to topple Mr. Pearson's