

L.T., SUSTAINING, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1966

(Dallas Townsend, Sub.)

**GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:**

A new effort is under way to end the war in Vietnam. Great Britain tonight called for a meeting of three three powers most immediately concerned -- the U.S., South Vietnam, and North Vietnam. The British offer to act as hosts for the meeting in any suitable British territory to help with the preparatory work. Britain and Russia were co-chairman of the 1954 Geneva conference that settled the Indo-China war. The British have tried repeatedly to persuade Russia to agree to re-open that conference -- but they didn't succeed -- so now they're making a new effort on their own. Administrative officials react favorably to the British proposal -- saying there should be no difficulty about American attendance at such a meeting. They point to this country's well-known position -- that we are ready to enter into discussions at any time that could lead to settlement of the war.

## WAR

The forty-eight-hour New Year's truce went into effect in Vietnam tonight -- but American troops have been ordered to maintain their vigilance against any Communist violations and extra police details are patrolling Saigon. In the final hours before the truce began, American bombers carried out new strikes against highway and railroads in North Vietnam, while B-Fifty-Twos blasted Communist concentrations in the Central Highlands of the South. Port operations in Saigon returned to normal with the settlement of a labor dispute between the American armed forces and Vietnamese dock-workers.

## **WILSON**

A rising clamor over American bombing raids against North Vietnam has forced British Prime Minister Wilson to cut short his New Year's holiday and make plans for returning to London. Wilson is spending the weekend on the Scilly Islands, off England's southwest coast, but he has decided to return to London on Monday, instead of Tuesday. He is reported under heavy pressure from some members -- of his own Labor Party, and even some Conservatives who want him to make a public statement dissociating Britain from the American bombings. The clamor was apparently brought on by New York Times despatches from Hanoi, and admissions in Washington that civilians may have been killed in the bombing attacks.

## HONG KONG

The United States and Britain have rejected Red China's charges that American Navy warships are using Hong Kong harbor as an auxiliary base to support the war. In a joint statement, London and Washington said the warships <sup>where</sup> ~~were~~ calling at Hong Kong purely for "rest and recreation purposes." Yesterday, Peking ~~and~~ warned Britain that it was "courting its own disaster" by allowing American ships to drop anchor at the British Crown Colony.

PETITION

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A group of eighty-four businessmen and the head of a Roman Catholic foreign policy organization have urged President Johnson to call off any further ~~escalation~~ <sup>escalation</sup> of the war. Instead they want peace talks to begin through the United Nations or other channels. / The petitions were offered by Doctor William O'Brien of the Catholic Association for International Peace -- and Henry Niles, board ~~man~~ <sup>and</sup> chairman of the Baltimore Life Insurance Company, who represented the group of businessmen.

LEVY

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The Army has begun an official investigation into the case of Captain Howard Levy of Brooklyn - who has been accused of trying to influence military trainees against serving in Viet Nam. / An investigative officer was named today at Fort Jackson, South Carolina will determine whether the charges should be referred to a court-martial. ~~At Fort Jackson, South Carolina,~~ where Levy is head of the base hospital's dermatology department.



## STORM

The nations' third major snowstorm in ten days swept out of the Far East today and headed toward the Rockies. While freezing temperatures gripped much of the region east of the Mississippi as the nation prepared to usher in the New Year.

UN

Out on the storm-tossed Atlantic, help has reached the seventy-foot yawl. Petrel -- battered by winds and waves on a trip from Stamford Connecticut to Bermuda. Late this afternoon, a British freighter reached the scene, many hours after distress messages were received by the Coast Guard -- reporting that the yawl was taking on water, and the ten young people on board were bailing it out with anything they could get their hands on. The freighter Cotswold lowered a small boat and took three women and two men on board. <sup>9</sup> The other five volunteered to remain with the yawl until morning, when a Coast Guard cutter will arrive and take the yawl in tow. The Corswold reports that all ~~ten~~ are in satisfactory condition. So for them it will be a New Years filled with thanksgiving -- after some anxious ours <sup>9</sup> ~~at~~ far at sea.



# TAPE LEAD-IN

And now, here's Lowell Thomas -- with a story about an unusual New Year's celebration. Lowell....

Tape Runs: 1:15

4.30-5.45

*Hi there Dallas and hello everybody:*

*From Alaska once more. As you perhaps have heard - ten adventuresome mountain climbers are hoping to ring in the new year from the loftiest peak of the Grand Teton, in Wyoming. One of the country's most spectacular mountains. The party is led by a friend of mine, veteran Paul Petsoldt of Lander, Wyoming. A famous climber. He's climbed in the Himalayas, the Alps, the Andes, everywhere.*

*Well, this party is already checked out with forest rangers at Moose, Wyoming. At this moment they are on their way to the mountain on cross-country skis. The temperature - oh, about eight degrees, mild weather, so far. What they find up there on the mountain - that will be something different. This at any rate was the last communication that the climbers were to have with the outside world when they reported to the forest rangers at Moose. That is, until they get back on January second or*

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*third. Unless an airplane just happens to stray and fly over the Grand Teton and spot them up there thirteen thousand seven hundred feet in the air on the summit of their mountain.*

*And, solong until Monday.*

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POSTERS

Reports reaching Tokyo say that posters have appeared in the Red Chinese capital of Peking -- demanding that former Mayor Peng Chen and three other Communist leaders ~~be~~<sup>be</sup> sent before a firing squad for opposing Mao Tse-Tung's policies. / Once considered one of the most powerful figures in the Chinese Communist Party, / Peng was dismissed as mayor / early this year before the emergence of the "Red Guard" movement last August.

involved plutonium, or hydrogen bomb material.

The Atomic Energy Commission has disclosed information -- indicating that Red China may have taken a mighty step toward development of a hydrogen bomb. The Commission reports that analysis of air-borne debris from the fifth and latest Chinese nuclear test -- three days ago -- shows that both Uranium two-thirty-eight and Uranium two-thirty-five were used as fissionable materials. The AEC says the latest test involved Thermonuclear, or Hydrogen bomb material.

## NATURAL GAS

A Federal Power Commission examiner today recommended that price ceilings be placed on all the natural gas produced in Southern Louisiana -- a proposal which, if adopted, could result in refunds of millions of dollars to consumers. Most of the consumers are in twenty-six eastern and midwestern states. The producers have thirty days to file objections with the full Power Commission which will decide the case. The examiner -- Joseph Zwerdling -- points out that natural gas prices in the area of southern Louisiana had risen much faster than those of any other gas producing region in the southwest.



ROMNEY

Michigan Governor George Romney says that it would be foolish for him -- or anyone else -- to ~~romney~~ <sup>formally</sup> declare as a ~~presidential~~ <sup>for pres nom</sup> candidate so far in advance of the Nineteen-Sixty-Eight election. He said his statement also applies to former vice-president Richard Nixon, who is considered Romney's chief competition for the <sup>Pres</sup> nomination. The Michigan governor has returned to Lansing -- after meeting in New York with Republican supporters who are urging him to seek the presidential nomination.

## SPECK

The trial of Richard Speck -- the accused slayer of eight student nurses in Chicago last July -- has been set for February Sixty in the county courthouse in Peoria, Illinois. A circuit court judge had ordered the trial removed from Chicago after Defense Attorney Gerald Getty protested that Speck could not receive a fair trial where the crimes were committed. Getty -- a Chicago public defender who was appointed Speck's attorney -- has indicated that he'll plead that the twenty-four-year-old seaman was mentally deranged on the day the nurses were murdered in their apartments on Chicago's Southside.

## COUNCIL

The Council of the American Association for the Advancement of Science has adopted a resolution -- expressing concern over the long-range consequences of using biological and chemical agents in Viet Nam. The resolution did not specifically mention in the war in Viet Nam -- where the United States has used chemical weed-killers to destroy Viet Cong rice crops, and strip the jungles of their foliage to expose Viet Cong hideouts. But a spokesman said the council members obviously had Viet Nam in mind when they drew up the resolution. The ultimate consequences they said, could alter the natural balance between living things and their environment.

## SPECIES

Two American scientists today proposed that a plan for improving the human species by mating gifted individuals. Professors William Laughlin of the University of Wisconsin and Benson Ginsberg of Chicago University presented their proposal in Washington at the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. To accomplish this improvement, they offered a plan for "special genius" factories, where particularly talented individuals would <sup>a</sup> meet and mate. They claim that ~~to some extent~~ American colleges and universities already function this way, to a limited extent.

CLOSE

Scientists in Washington are taling about what sounds like a strange new world -- a world of people who wear prism glasses that turn everything around -- making Right seem like Left, and Here seem like There. After wearing these glasses for just a few minutes, they say, college students were mistaken about where their own ~~had~~<sup>9</sup> hands were -- and what they were doing -- even to the extend of writing numbers and letters backward without realizing it. <sup>1</sup> One scientist -- undoubtedly quoting Dorothy Parker -- says "Men seldom make passes at girls who wear prism glasses." And another remarks -- "Yes, and when they do, they miss each other." Well, it's a topsy-turvy world anyway -- but this seems almost too much.

Dallas Townsend saying Goodnight.