

On Capitol Hill - the Vietnam peace boom continued to build today. Thanks mainly to House Republican Leader Gerald Ford - also, Senate Republican Leader Hugh Scott. Each - in his own way - spurring hopes for an early end to the fighting.

First up - Ford; predicting in the months ahead - a "continued substantial improvement in the situation in Vietnam;" to the point - said he - where Congress can begin next year to consider abolishing the draft. Ford declaring confidently: "We're going to have a substantially lessened military responsibility - in Nineteen-Seventy."

Next - Senator Scott; asserting that America's present war strategy - that of "protective reaction" - is "quite close" to a "cease fire and stand-fast policy." He urged, therefore, an announcement of our intention to declare an actual cease-fire - "on a certain date." And - he said - "the sooner the better".

But Scott emphasized that this is not a trial balloon for the President - it's a personal hope. The White House later making the same point.

Defense Secretary Laird said the Pentagon is opposed to any American ceasefire in Vietnam unless the Communists go along with it. Commenting on THAT, the White House said Laird was stating his point of view - he was referring to Pentagon attitudes.

Speculation on these and other matters continued to stir up optimism in Wall Street. On the New York Stock Market, volume rose to more than nineteen-MILLION shares - the Dow Jones industrial average climbed about thirteen and a half points.

WASHINGTON

The U.S. cost-of-living index - up sharply again last month. Jumping a full half-a-per cent - according to figures announced today. Government economist Arnold Chase observing that - "nearly everything in the family budget was higher." Which means that if we have turned the corner on inflation as President Nixon said last week - ~~the trend has~~
it hasn't shown yet in
~~yet to show itself~~ official figures.

BEIRUT-HAIFA

In the Middle East - Lebanon was strongly condemned today by much of the Arab world. / This for cracking down on Arab guerillas /- using Lebanese bases for attacks against Israel. / At the same time - a number of anti-government demonstrations in Bierut itself. In the end, forcing the resignation of Lebanese Premier-~~designate~~ Rashid Karami- who confessed an inability to cope with the rising tide of violence.

~~Meanwhile~~ Arab guerillas ~~were~~ ^{blew up} ~~three~~ three apartment houses today - in the Israeli port city of Haifa. The blasts killing at least one - injuring ~~eleven~~ a dozen

(SUGGESTED LEAD-IN TO THOMAS TAPE SLUGGED "MENZIES")

And now - here again Lowell Thomas; with another special report - tonight from Melbourne, Australia.

Lowell...

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MENZIES

*L.J. Tape insert
unedited*

Good evening everybody.

Some thirty years ago in the period between the two World Wars, I had a speech that I used to give fairly often and the theme was - that "there are still giants who walk the earth." It was a period when pioneer aviators were thrilling us, and when there were many outstanding explorers, Amundsen, Shackleton, Stefansson, Balchen, Wilkins, Byrd, Roy Chapman Andrews and so on. Today I wonder if there are as many. Probably there are. At any rate, I've just been with one of the authentic giants of our time, Sir Robert Menzies, who was Australia's Prime Minister for seventeen years. At age seventy-five he's in retirement so far as active participation in government is concerned. But, he continues writing and speaking.

As for speech making in his deep rumbling voice he scoffs at modern leaders who read their speeches from a manuscript. Among Americans he mentioned Governor Dewey and President Nixon as true men of eloquence, and while Mr. Menzies and Mr. Johnson were good friends he feels that L B J missed the one real

opportunity to wind up the war in Vietnam.

Sir Robert Menzies thinks that there is only one way to win a war once you are in one - to go all-out and win it.

Not fight with one ^{hand} behind your back. Not to bother with polls and not to bother with reading newspaper columnists or listening to them on the air. He feels that President Nixon faces a different set of problems now. And so far seems to be doing all right.

As for Australia, at the moment, Sir Robert Menzies feels that it is just about the most ^{fortunate} fortunate nation in all the world. Solong.

(SUGGESTED FOLLOW TO THOMAS TAPE SLUGGED "MENZIES")

Thank you, Lowell. Back to the news...

Sir Robert may just have a point there.

For the men of Apollo-Eleven - another rousing reception today at Kinshasa in the Congo. Here in our own country - those two touring Soviet cosmonauts - visiting the U.S. Space Center at Houston. While in Moscow - a mammoth welcome for the seven Soyuz spacemen - who last week achieved the biggest yet mass orbital flight. At this last - Soviet party Leader Brezhnev calling for construction of a series of space platforms - or "cosmodromes," as he put it - to serve "as mankind's highway to the planets."

HURRICANE LAURIE ~~XXX~~

That slow-moving hurricane named Laurie is still thrashing around in the Gulf of Mexico tonight - now heading in the general direction of the Florida Keys. A hurricane watch is in effect along the Florida West Coast. The storm is still more than two hundred miles away from Key West - with highest winds less than ninety miles an hour. The National Hurricane Center at Miami says the storm is diminishing and only a shadow of its former self - but it could intensify. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

Good news for skiers - Warren, in your favorite state - Vermont - recording its heaviest October snowfall in forty-three years. A blanket of white - hitting a top of seven inches at Montpelier. The weatherman further predicting - more snow flurries for tomorrow; and away we go - on another winter season.

Dallas Townsend saying Goodnight.