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CONCEDES DOUBT JFK Questions 'Missile Gap'

By The Associated Press
WASHINGTON—President Kennedy conceded Wednesday he does not know whether there is a "missile gap" or not—but he does still believe the nation is entering the years of its greatest peril.

Kennedy backed away, at his third news conference in three weeks as President, from his campaign charges that Russia will outnumber the United States in missiles for three years.

The Pentagon now is pressing studies to provide a clearer answer on the balance of strategic weapons power, the President said. Until then, he declared, any judgment is premature.

"Of course, it is my hope that the United States is fully secure," Kennedy said.

"If it is not, I think it is important that we know about it, and I will then take the responsibility of passing on the message this collective judgment to our position, and what needs to be done."

The President spoke rapidly, as usual, but plainly was choosing his words carefully in this effort to calm a storm that blew up after briefing of reporters Monday at the Pentagon.

The Defense Department source identified Wednesday as Secretary Robert S. McNamara—was described in news stories as saying preliminary findings indicate the much-discussed missile gap did not exist.

Tuesday night, White House press secretary Pierre Salinger reacted any such conclusion. He declared, after talking with Kennedy, that the stories were premature, inaccurate, and without foundation.

Kennedy's words Wednesday left hangings up in the air again.

But two points stood out: First, the U. S. missile gap—once acknowledged even by former President Dwight D. Eisenhower's secretary of defense, Neil H. McElroy—no longer can be taken for granted. And second, to the extent the presumed gap may have been narrowed or closed, the U. S. is strengthened in the game world politics.

Eisenhower had hinted at a new appraisal of U. S. and Russian missile strength in one of his final messages to Congress. He said: "The 'bomber gap' of several years ago has been closed."

(See MISSILE on Page 4)

Chemistry Lecture Scheduled

Dr. Francis O. Rice, Professor of Chemistry at Georgetown University, will deliver an address today in Room 231 of the Chemistry Building. The public is invited to attend the lecture entitled "Chemistry on Jupiter," a subject which Rice's extensive interests have caused him to enter recently. Rice was born in Liverpool, England, in 1890. He received his B.Sc., M.Sc. and D.Sc. degrees from Liverpool University and came to the United States in 1919 on a Princeton University fellowship. After finishing at Princeton, he became instructor of chemistry at New York University, where he stayed until 1924.

He served as Associate Professor and Associate in Chemistry at Johns Hopkins University from 1924 to 1938, and from then until recently he was professor and head of the Department of Chemistry, Catholic University of America.

Rice is very well known in the research field for his work in reactions and radicals. He has won two awards for his work—the Mendel Medal in 1935 and Hillebrand Prize for 1950.

In connection with his research, Rice has authored or co-authored three books, "The Mechanisms of Homogeneous Organic Reaction," "The Aliphatic Free Radicals" and "The Structure of Matter." The major portion of his some 80 papers, three books and several patents has been directed to the kinetics and mechanisms of chemical reactions.

These interests have enabled him to extend his work on types of colored free radicals into the realm of interstellar space, to explain the colors of Jupiter.

Rice is recognized as an excellent lecturer.

(See DR. RICE on Page 3)



Harry Gooding, Regie Lundergan
... main characters of "The Fourposter"

BEGINNING TUESDAY

Bride, Groom, The Bed Offer 'Fourposter' Mirth

By TOMMY HOLBEIN

A supremely hilarious scene between an anxious, enraptured bridegroom and his timid, naive, blushing bride opens the Aggie Players' production of "The Fourposter," beginning next Tuesday night in the lower level of the MSC.

The show, lasting through Feb. 17, will feature Harry Gooding in the role of Michael, the husband; Regie Lundergan is cast as Agnes, his wife, with the third character being "the fourposter," a pink and white bed about which the play revolves.

Other furnishings in the apartment where the couple spend 25 years of married life include a dresser and mirror, and a "love seat" divan, with various objects added to give a homey touch to the room.

From the wedding night, which is the first scene of the first act, the three-act play moves on to the mirth-filled period of pregnancy three years later. A large contrast between the timidity of the wedding night and the developed ease of the couple can be easily recognized in this scene.

Events occurring eight years later start the second act, followed by a second scene happening after 12 years of married life. The trials and tribulations continue to flow, with humor and pathos blended to create a fully enjoyable show.

The marriage of their daughter is the basis for the scene opening Act Three between Michael and Agnes, taking place 22 years after their marriage begins. This is followed by the closing scene, as they prepare to move out of the apartment and turn it over to a young, newly married couple.

Directed by C. K. Esten, "The Fourposter" has been in progress since the first part of January. Esten, besides being producer for the Aggie Players, is also active in work concerning the Texas Educational Theater Association.

Friday, Esten will attend the annual association convention in Fort Worth, which will be an all-day session held at Texas Christian University.

Esten is chairman of the committee for revision of the curriculum on acting, a course of study fully accredited and now active in many senior colleges in Texas. Esten has expressed desire to install the program at A&M sometime in the future, but plans have not been completed as yet.

For "The Fourposter," Esten supervised an active stage and set crew, converting the lower level of the Memorial Student Center into a theater "in the round"; last night, finishing touches were still being added to the set.

As the stage and audience seating is now designed, the spectators will surround the stage on three sides, with those on stage exercising certain techniques to maintain visibility between themselves and the entire audience at all times.

The fourth side of the stage provides "escape" doors for the pair to exit from into their dressing rooms where Jane Eisner, who is in charge of costumes, will help with rapid changes during the short intermissions.

Set crew for the production includes Marlene Rushing, Betty Simmons, Dave Woodard, Marcus Edwards and Randal Yeagen. Manipulating the lights will be Charles Hearn and George Piller.

"The Fourposter" was very successful as a Broadway play, only

leaving the New York Stage a few years ago; it was also made into a unique movie, since all scenes took place in one room, with time between the scenes filled by cartoons.

Interpretation of the play by the "Players" has added new spice to a popular comedy, with different theater production for which the A&M Drama organization has become renowned and popular in the past few years.

Last semester's production, "Winterset," which is considered the greatest of American tragedies, was a large success, playing for five consecutive nights in Guion Hall. "Winterset" was a more involved production, with larger cast, but the same quality of theater will be seen in "The Fourposter."

The comedy promises an entertaining evening for all who attend starting Tuesday night; tickets will be 75¢ per person, a bargain price for a million dollars worth of humor.



Workers Prepare Set
... for Tuesday night opening

Singing Cadets Slate 1st Trip

Houston Stop Opens Spring Schedule

By ROBERT DENNEY

The A&M Singing Cadets, directed by Robert L. Boone, will present a "full concert" at Spring Branch High School in Houston this Friday.

The concert, sponsored by the A&M Mothers' Clubs of the area, will feature an interesting and varied program consisting of folksongs, artsongs, spiritual songs and numbers from latest Broadway hits.

The first 15 minutes of the 25 minute program will consist of a song from each of these categories, and the last portion of the program with a musical "Testament of Freedom" by Thomas Jefferson.

Included will be solos by Steve Rogers, Jim Hudson, Mark Major and William Sturgeon, with Jim Hudson providing some of his own accompaniment on the guitar.

More Tours Set

After the trip to Houston tomorrow, the Singing Cadets will have just started this semester's activities as they are planning several tours for March and April. In early March, they are going to Edna, Victoria, Corpus Christi and Dallas. A program in Denton at Texas Women's University is also on the agenda.

The Cadets plan to round out the year with a tour to Lufkin, Shreveport, Longview and Tyler.

Tunes Offered

Some of the tunes in the huge repertoire of the singers are "Hear My Prayer," "O, Lord Most Holy," "Good News," "A'roving," "Elijah Rock," "Roll Chariot," "Danny Boy," "Dream Olwen" and a medley of Broadway hits.

In "Elijah Rock" and "Roll Chariot," Jim Hudson plays his guitar and sings, with the Cadets providing added background.

H. B. Gonzalez Backers Meet Here Tonight

The District Court Room of the Brazos County Courthouse will be the scene of an organizational meeting for the A&M branch of the "Collegians for Gonzalez" committee. The meeting will commence at 7:30 this evening.

"Collegians for Gonzalez" had its birth at St. Mary's University in San Antonio, and has spread to become a state-wide organization of college and university students who advocate the election of State Senator Henry B. Gonzalez to the seat in the U. S. Senate vacated by Vice President Lyndon Johnson.

The organization is primarily made up of college students, but any other persons who are interested in Gonzalez as a candidate for the Senate seat are reportedly invited to attend the meeting.

A&M representative for "Collegians for Gonzalez," Frank P. Hernandez, says he feels the support this group can give will be of great help in the upcoming election.

Engineering Society Meets

A film and talk on civil engineering will be featured in the meeting of the Freshman Engineering Society in the Chemistry Lecture Room tomorrow night at 7:30.

"This meeting is very important to all members, since we will hold an election for the officers for next year," said James Hilton, president of the Society.

"We feel that all members should try to attend since the men who will be elected will represent them in the coming year."

RV's Ready As Mardi Gras Trip Nears

"Now, Roommate, can I start now?"

"Of course not. You are not supposed to leave until Saturday after drill."

"But think of all the Mardi Gras parties I'm missing."

"Ah, go shine your brass buttons."

As the time draws nearer, 115 Ross Volunteers paw the ground more violently. This year, as in the past, the RV's have been selected as the official honor guard for His Majesty Rex at New Orleans' Mardi Gras.

Under the command of Cadet Col. Glenn A. Jones, 26 seniors and 89 juniors will lead the Rex Parade Tuesday morning. The Rex Parade is the highlight of over 20 parades held during Mardi Gras.

The gigantic procession is expected to last at least four hours.

"Since we are the first unit in the parade, most of our movements will be marching manuals so we won't hold up the entire parade," Jones said.

"Our first social event is a luncheon to be held in our honor Monday by the New Orleans Aggie Club," he said. "It will be held in a French Quarter restaurant," he added.

"Then Tuesday night all of the Ross Volunteers will be guests at the Rex Ball... the most fabulous of all the 60 Mardi Gras balls," Jones said.

Jones said that most of the cadets would leave the Crescent City Wednesday in time to be back in classes Thursday.

The Aggies will stay at Camp LeRoy Johnson, an Army post outside New Orleans.

Col. and Mrs. Joe Davis will accompany the precision drill unit as official sponsors.

The majority of the funds for the trip will come from dues collected from the RV's themselves.

Legislators Told Vice Break Near

By The Associated Press

AUSTIN—A serious, self-dedicated group from Beaumont told legislators Wednesday night that the 57th Legislature has "a once in a lifetime" chance to stamp out vice in Jefferson County.

"We dare not fail," said the Rev. C. M. Lange, pastor of a Beaumont Baptist church and a spokesman for the Southeast Texas Baptist Assn.

"We will not fail," promised B. T. McWhorter, former Beaumont city attorney and spokesman for the City Betterment Committee.

A group of about 15 from Jefferson County met with the four state representatives from the area and appeared before the House State Affairs Committee in support of a resolution that would continue a five-man House Investigation Committee similar to the one that aired vice conditions in Amarillo, Port Arthur and Beaumont recently.

"We are not pressing for the same committee, but we want a committee that is not afraid to go into any city and carry on a full and impartial investigation," said McWhorter.

"The Texas Rangers and the of-

ficers made the raids in Beaumont on Dec. 23," said McWhorter.

"How come not one word was heard from any one of our four representatives until the legislature met Jan. 10?"

Rep. Will Smith, Beaumont, said he asked for an immediate hearing on the resolution presented Wednesday night. Rep. Roy Harrington, Port Arthur, said he made a statement promising help to citizens groups.

"I predict we will have a general investigating committee in Texas in 30 days," said Smith.

"This is a once in a lifetime opportunity," Lange told the area representatives and members of the House committee. "If something isn't done Jefferson County will not be the worst place in Texas but the worst place in this part of the United States."

World Wrap-Up

By The Associated Press

Angry Crowds Riot In Italy

NAPLES, Italy—Thousands of Neapolitans, infuriated when a municipal transport strike did not end on schedule, set fire to buses and street cars and battled police Wednesday night. At least 30 were injured.

The crowd set fire to four trolley buses, two streetcars and four buses. They also put the torch to a police truck and ticket office for suburban lines.

University Fund Raising Campaign OK'd

DALLAS—Texas Methodist have stamped approval on mammoth \$32 million fund raising campaign for the church's five colleges and universities in the state. The program, hailed as the greatest fund gathering campaign in the history of Texas Methodism, was announced Wednesday by Bishop William C. Martin of Dallas.

Suicide Found In Motel Room

BIG LAKE, Tex.—Anderson Brown Morris, 33, a radio and television executive from Ada, Okla., was found shot to death yesterday in his motel room here.

Sheriff James Proffitt said the death appeared to be suicide. A 12 gauge shotgun was near the body and a note was found in the room, the sheriff said.

Japan Gets New Atomic Energy Program

TOKYO—The Atomic Energy Commission announced Wednesday a new long-range peaceful atomic energy development program for Japan.

Under the program Japan plans to establish within 20 years atomic power plants having a total capacity of 7-to 9.5-billion kilowatts. Japan also hopes to construct its first atomic-powered vessel in 1968-70.

Track Opens Season—Page 6