

During JFK's Press Conference

Cuba, Adlai Queries Keep Coming

By WHITNEY SHOEMAKER
Of the Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Kennedy tried again to close the book on the Adlai Stevenson chapter in the Cuban crisis. He said it should be left to history "when the whole record will be spread out in great detail."

But he said he thought that after having read various statements of the past 10 days "any historian—and I think this matter should be left to historians—who walks through this mine field of charges and counter-charges, should proceed with some care."

The President in his news conference Wednesday touched on many subjects — including the Mona Lisa and a record spoofing the First Family. But the questions kept returning to Cuba and Stevenson.

Stevenson Endorsed

The President again endorsed the U.N. ambassador saying: "The fact of the matter is that Gov. Stevenson renders very distinguished service. He has done an excellent job at the United Nations."

But the President left up in the air who in the administration may have given two reporters information portraying Stevenson as urging appeasement during Cuban crisis conferences of the National Security Council's executive committee.

The President said "it is my judgment that this statement or interpretation of Gov. Stevenson's position did not come from a member of the National Security Council. I satisfied myself on that I never heard anyone characterize Stevenson's position in that way and I am satisfied myself that no one did."

He added there were other people who might have. But that, he said, is a matter for reporters—"A matter that, as I say, I think can much better be left to history when the whole record will be spread out in great detail."

Kennedy was asked: "You

don't know, then, who leaked it?"

"No, I don't know who," he replied, "and I think it is unfortunate if anybody discusses any matter that comes before the National Security Council because I think it lessens its effectiveness."

Magazine Article

The magazine blew up over an article in the Saturday Evening Post, written by Washington newsmen Stewart Alsop and Charles Bartlett, which gave an account of the council's deliberations during the crisis and the positions various members took.

Stevenson has denounced the account of his position as untrue and Kennedy made public a letter expressing his confidence in the U.N. ambassador. Because Bartlett is an old and close friend of the President, rumors immediately shot through the capital that someone in the administration was "out to get Adlai." Fears were expressed that an attempt was being made to undermine him at the United Nations.

Kennedy said: "I am surprised that anyone would possibly think that it would be in the interest of the country, or the administration, or the White House that any lessening of his influence would be provided."

The President assumed full responsibility for decisions of the National Security Council but declined to discuss positions taken by advisers in advance of his decision to wrap an arms blockade around Cuba.

Own Methods Used

In other matters, Kennedy said he hadn't had time to digest Soviet Premier Khrushchev's speech earlier in the day in which he declared he would hold the United States to its promise of a guarantee against invading Cuba.

Kennedy said he hoped Cuban settlement negotiations at the United Nations would reach "some conclusion" but asserted the United States would

use its own methods to insure against another Soviet buildup in Cuba. "These methods," he said, "are very effective."

As of now, Kennedy declared, "it is our best judgment" that the Soviets have withdrawn their missiles and bombers from Cuba.

The United States, he added, will announce within two weeks new regulations to penalize non-Communist shipping involved in the Cuban trade.

The President reiterated, without specifications, his proposal to cut income taxes next year. He contended he and Rep. Wilbur Mills, D-Ark., chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, are not as far apart as a cursory reading of a recent interview with Mills might indicate.

Mills, who conferred privately with Kennedy after the news conference, said in the interview that he opposed a "quickie" tax cut or reduction that would balloon the government's debt.

Kennedy said he would detail his tax program at a speech before the Economic Club of New York Friday night.

Kennedy touched on these other topics in the nationally televised and broadcast conference.

SPOOFS—Kennedy chuckled when asked what he thought of "The First Family" record in which Kennedy's voice is mimicked. His audience roared when he said, "I thought it sounded more like Teddy than it did me—so he's annoyed." Teddy is his youngest brother, Sen. Edward M. Kennedy.

COMMUNICATIONS—Relatively "instantaneous communication" with the Kremlin is desirable to eliminate delays such as occurred in exchanging messages with Khrushchev during the Cuban emergency.

BOYCOTTS—Persons who boycott stores selling goods imported from behind the Iron Curtain aren't helping much of a fight against the spread of communism.

NUCLEAR ROCKET—Not



(AP Wirephoto)

Tax Cut

President Kennedy answers a question at his news conference in Washington Wednesday. The chief executive told reporters the administration plans to push its program for an early, substantial tax cut.

until tests are completed next July will the government decide whether to put more money into the Rover project to develop a nuclear-powered vehicle for deep space exploration.

VIET NAM—After pouring men and equipment into Viet Nam to counter Communist aggression, Kennedy said, "We don't see the end of the tunnel,

but I must say I don't think it is darker than it was a year ago, and in some ways lighter."

ALLIANCE FOR PROGRESS—Kennedy said the United States is deeply concerned over inflation in Brazil. He also recommended strengthening the labor movement in Latin America lest it "be disaffected and go to the radical left."

Skybolt Missile's Destiny Based on Macmillan Talks

By ELTON C. FAY
Of the Associated Press

WASHINGTON—The fate of the Skybolt missile program, subject of the hottest U.S.-British argument in years, hangs precariously on next week's meeting between President Kennedy and Prime Minister Harold Macmillan—and this country's military budget.

Tentative American plans to give up on the expensive missile—around which Britain has shaped its nuclear strategy—has brought a sharp reaction from Britain and put a strain on the alliance.

When asked about the Skybolt dispute at his news conference Wednesday, Kennedy spoke cautiously.

He was sure it would be discussed when he meets with Macmillan in the Bahamas Dec. 19-20. The United States is now reviewing its budget for the new fiscal year. No final decision will be made until these matters have been completed.

The United States has put a half-billion dollars into the program so far. To complete it and buy the missiles might require \$2.5 billion more. Five tests of the 1,100-mile range ballistic missile for launching from bombers have not been successful.

Seed Commission Members Named

SALEM (AP)—Gov. Mark Hatfield made the following appointments Wednesday to the Oregon Orchardgrass Seed Producers Commission:

Dale Carlson, Summerville; Eugene Danner, Corvallis; Don Fletcher, Stayton; Don Hector, Corvallis; K. A. McKenzie, Seio; Richard Schumacher, Sublimity; and George Zimmerman, Stayton.

"So—there really is the question of how much it is worth to the British and ourselves to put in that kind of money when we have competing claims for our available funds," the President said.

Kennedy characterized the Skybolt as "the most sophisticated weapon imaginable. To fire a missile from a plane moving at high speed to hit a target 1,000 miles away requires the most advanced engineering and, of course, it has been really, in a sense, the kind of engineering that's been beyond us."

British Optimistic

British experts don't believe the Skybolt is a flop. They feel the initial troubles can be overcome.

Kennedy noted that Britain has a "very important equity in the matter."

There is, of course, the possibility that Kennedy and Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara may reconsider what seems to be the present intention to drop the program.

McNamara's talk with British Defense Minister Peter Thorneycroft in London reportedly got nowhere.

Britain, whose whole strategic nuclear strategy hinged on using the U.S. Skybolt on its own Vulcan bombers, is understood to have rejected firmly any suggestion that it might use the Hound Dog missile instead.

The Hound Dog, now carried by U.S. B-52 bombers, has less than half the intended range of the Skybolt.

Informants in Britain make plain that grave developments could come if the United States leave Britain holding the Skybolt bag. There is talk of a complete reappraisal of British defense commitments to the

United States including use of bases in the United Kingdom.

Total Amount

The bases include the Holy Loch, Scotland, anchorage for Polaris submarines, a tender ship and a drydock, as well as full or partial use by the U.S. Air Force of 28 facilities in Britain, among them about a dozen air fields.

Kennedy's reference to a "half billion dollars" already put into the Skybolt program may have referred only to actual expenditures to this date. The total amount spent or authorized for the current fiscal year is \$658 million.

The missiles are expensive, even by today's high cost for weapons.

Some estimates are that each missile, with its nuclear warhead, may cost from \$1.75 million to \$2 million.

To equip even that portion of the B-52 strategic bomber fleet which can be revamped to use the missiles could require a production of about 1,000 missiles.

Nina II Spotted Off Puerto Rico

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)—Nina II, the elusive reproduction of Columbus' third ship which is attempting to duplicate the original voyage, was spotted by search planes again Wednesday about 300 miles northeast of Puerto Rico.

Winds were strong and the sea was rough, but the Nina said it would continue on toward its destination, San Salvador, the Bahamas. The Coast Guard estimated it might arrive there Christmas Eve.

The Nina's crew again refused food but asked for water and cigarettes.

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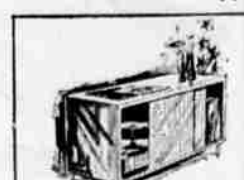
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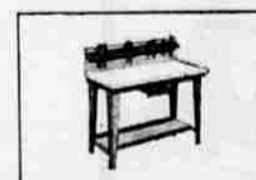
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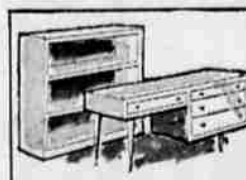
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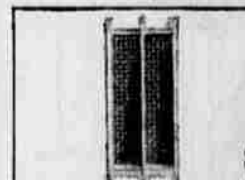


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