

Johnson Confers With Dobrynin

By Drew Pearson

President Johnson had an unusual talk with Soviet Ambassador Anatoly F. Dobrynin when the Ambassador came in to give a pledge of continued coexistence from the new rulers of the Kremlin.

The President took advantage of the call to sit down in his rocking chair, sprawl his long legs out in front of the fireplace, and chat with the Ambassador on the aims and ideals of the United States for a whole hour.

"Charles L. Lamb once said, 'I don't like that man, and I don't want to know him. If I got to know him, I'm sure I'd like him,'" the President told the Ambassador. Then he went on to say that the Russians don't know the United States and the Americans don't know the Soviet Union, but he was sure that if they once got to know each other they would like each other.

He reviewed some of the tense moments that have occurred in recent relations between the United States and Communist countries, including the Gulf of Tonkin incident.

"We couldn't let our destroyer be fired on the high seas," he said, and pointed out that the United States had re-

taliated within judicious limits.

"We're going to respect our rights," he said, "and we're going to respect other people's rights."

"Send in the Marines"

Mr. Johnson also reviewed the Guantanamo incident in which, he said, "Mr. Castro decided to cut our water off."

"We were paying him for that water and we were employing 3000 Cubans to work there. We were spending about \$5 million to \$6 million a year with them."

"Suddenly and impetuously and impulsively, and I think irrationally, he cut off our water. The shout went up, 'Send in the Marines!' But we let our coffee cool a bit and then we decided for better or for worse that it was wiser to send in one admiral to cut the water off than it was to send in a regiment of Marines to turn the water on."

"So we told Mr. Castro that we will make this base self-sufficient. We will make our own water. We cut off about \$5 million worth of his exchange."

Mr. Johnson went on to quote an old story of his about when he, as a young man, was fighting the power company in Texas.

"I negotiated with the president of the power company for two days and I didn't make a bit of progress," the President told the Soviet envoy. "He just sat there like a

Methodist deacon and didn't give an answer. I was somewhat impulsive in my youth, and I finally got disgusted and I said: 'As far as I am concerned, you can go to hell.'"

"The old man just looked at me as calm and restrained as he could be, and said: 'But I don't want to go there.'"

"All the board of directors came over and congratulated me on the fine speech I had made and how courageous it was to tell the president of the power company to go to hell. Finally I went to the one old lawyer who was wise and I said, 'How did you like my speech?'"

"He said, 'Well, son, you are young in public life, and I hope you go a long ways. But the first thing you have to learn is that telling a man to go to hell and making him go are two different propositions.'"

"Well, we're not going to tell you to go to hell," the President told the Soviet Ambassador. "But there's got to be a little bend on your side and a little bend on ours."

"I've seen enough of shooting in the last war in the Pacific and don't want to see any more shooting."

At one point, the President told the Ambassador: "This is not what my advisers told me to tell you. These are my own personal views, but what I say represents their views too."

At another point, Mr. John-

son told Dobrynin that he was "proud" of the Soviet Union's achievement in launching a three-man space capsule and he considered it healthy to conduct a peaceful race for space.

"After the election, if I'm re-elected," the President concluded, "I hope we can work together for peace. So far, we have just scratched the surface."

Secretary of State Dean Rusk was so pleased when he read over a summary of the President's conversation with Dobrynin that he went over to the White House to congratulate him.

Baseball Opinion

Members of the highest court in the land were attending a birthday party in the Supreme Court building for Justice William O. Douglas, now 25 years on the bench.

Chief Justice Earl Warren, who never fails to take in the World Series, was talking about the photo finish of the St. Louis Cardinals.

"What does it mean," asked Joel Fisher, the Washington aviation attorney, "when Yogi Berra wins the pennant and gets fired, and Johnny Keane wins the world championship and resigns?"

"It just proves," replied the Chief Justice, "that the way to achieve success is not to win."



Pearson