Good Evening Everybody:

The 88th congress finally managed to adjourn today - after the senate approved and sent to President Johnson the three-billion dollar foreign aid bill - that has caused congress so much trouble.

Even the most controversial part of the bill - the wheat amendment - which gives the President limited authority to underwrite the sale of U.S. wheat to Russia went through.

The proceedings today were relatively quiet in comparison to the angry debates in the house last week
over the same bill.

In fact, the only real criticism came from Senator Wayne Morse. Now, even the senior senator
from Oregon is on his way home.

President Johnson is now directing much of his attention on the 1965 budget.

The president conferring till after midnight last night with his economic advisers, and again at breakfast this morning.

Defense secretary McNamara and the joint chiefs of staff at the LBJ ranch - to confer about the budget.

The chiefs of staff urging that the military budget should not be cut below this year's level.

Intensive - activity, as usual at the LBJ ranch, with Secretary McNamara saying later that defense spending for the fiscal year 1965 will be about a billion dollars less than this year.

Premier Khrushchev sent the American people
a New Year's Greeting card tonight. A message of
good wishes for peace and, of course, peaceful
co-operation between the two nations. "Peaceful
co-operation" being Premier Khrushchev's favorite
theme - these days.

The boss of the Kremlin going out of his way to emphasize his belief that neither America nor Russia - wants war. That East-West understanding on a wide range of issues - could ease the cold war and make nineteen sixty-four a year of change for the better - in international affairs. All this loving kindness on Nikita's part was not of course without a double meaning.

He was also making use of the occasion to reject completely the Red Chinese theory that no co-operation is possible - between Communists and the

unbelieving rest of the world. He doesn't want - as do
the Chinese - to build a better world on the smoking
ruins of this one.

So says the Boss of the Kremlin in his New
Year's Greeting. I'm sure most of us hope these
wishes - are firm New Year's resolutions too.

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Chancellor Ludwig Erhard was in high good
humor - at that News Conference in Bonn today. The
West German Chancellor just back from his Texan-style
Christmas - at the LBJ Ranch. Chancellor Erhard is
delighted at the way it turned out - both socially (as
he remarked with a grin) and politically. Telling his
Cabinet that the United States will toch to its guns in
Europe - despite the change in Presidents.

The Chancellor said he knew this anyway, but just wanted to talk it over - with President Johnson.

Because, as he said - "Politics are conducted by individuals".

So it wasn't all just Texas hospitality back at the Ranch, though no doubt the Texas ranch atmosphere did help/Chancellor Erhard a rather different Christmas holiday. And the Chancellor does look like a born Santa Claus.

Meanwhile West Berlin Mayor Willy Brandt

has asked the Western Allies to approve his policy of conducting direct negotiations with the East Berlin government. Negotiations that is - over traffic through the Berlin Wall. Until the Christmas breakthrough, when West Berliners were allowed to visit their relatives in the East, negotiations had always been conducted - with the U.S.S.R. The allies, not recognizing the East Berlin's government's right - to control the boundary.

Now Mayor Brandt wants to negotiate - further visits for West Berliners and he wants - allied approval.

The Union Jack was hoisted again today in Cyprus for the first time since that island became independent in 1960

British troops are now occupying both sides of a no-man's land at Nicosia - capital of Cyprus.

The zone - agreed upon by the Grek and

Turkish Cypriots - whose clashes have taken an estimated

200 lives in the last few days. The British troops 
there to keep order.

Both sides accepting the neutral zone, proposed by Commonwealth relations secret ary Duncan Sandys.

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Casablanca, long known to almost everybody
because it's Casba has so often appeared in the movies is in the news again tonight, and to the casual
onlooker in that city it might have seemed that - a
movie was being filmed today - all about some affair
of intrique - and secrecy. Twelve black limousines,
with curtains drawn, surrounded by motorcycles and
police on foot - arriving in the center of Casablanca.

But what was really happening - Chou en Lai,
Premier of Red China, presently visiting Morocco, was
on his way to inspect - a petroleum refinery. And
the Moroccan National Tea Office.

The Moroccan authorities taking no chances with Chou's safety - while he is in Morocco. The reason for his visit - to drum up trade between Peking and Morocco. Casablanca, a romantic setting - for a mere mundane matter; but when that master of intrigue Chou en Lai is the star, you never can tell.

Here's a hopeful story in the news tonight -from the always hopeful Bob Hope. With, needless to say -- a touch of that Hope humour. Many Americans have wondered aloud, at the one time or another, whether all that foreign aid -- and all these troops in Europe -are really necessary. Well Bob Hope -- just back from his annual ten-day Christmas swing, entertaining troops in Europe -- has the answer. "I saw where all our money is going", he says. "It seems like going to a BEFE SADE STORY lot of trouble to keep Khrushchev out of Disneyland --However as the metas markers will be sent but it's worth it".

Amd now Hal Sims - for Dick Noell, to tell us about something I hope you all have for the New Year -- something that is really worth it.

Russians are invading Sacramento California -- but there's no alarm.

Big Russian snow-geese are flying in to the California Capital -- apparently preferring Sacramento to Siberia. Wise geese?

The birds, with metal leg bands carrying their identity in the Russian language, evidently didn't know they were arriving at just the wrong time -- during the peak of the goose-hunting season. Sad to say -- the Russians were shot down.

However -- the metal markers will be sent
back to Moscow, with best wishes of the season, and a
suggestion that they goose more geese and send them to
Sacramento --- And so long until tomorrow!

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