

From the U.S. Supreme Court - a verdict today; in effect, expanding the legal definition of "conscientious objector." The High Court ruled that a draftee can claim said status - even though his opposition to war is not based on religious convictions. Justice Hugo Black - who wrote the majority opinion - asserted that such an individual can "hold beliefs which are purely ethical or moral in source and content." He added, however, that today's decision can not apply - to those whose opposition to war "rests solely upon considerations of policy, pragmatism or expediency."

DETROIT

Vice President Spiro Agnew - tonight at Detroit

asserted that the nation's editorial writers - are urging a de-escalation of rhetoric; when, quite the contrary - said he - what we really need is an attempt to "elevate the rhetoric."

Agnew added that rational dissenters - "have never been more needed than they are today." But the trouble - says he - "their ideas are too often ignored; not by the majority - but rather the emotionaries; a relatively small group of anti-intellectuals - that has snatched the standard of dissent from their hands."

KOMPONG SPEU

War news from Cambodia tells today of an attempt to retake - the vital crossroads city of Kompong Speu. A joint effort led by Cambodian troops with the assistance of South Vietnamese air, artillery and ground support. Military spokesmen in Phnom Penh and Saigon - later reported the Communist hold on Kompong Speu had finally been broken. Front reports are still insisting though - that heavy fighting continues there.

WHITE HOUSE

President Nixon was back at his desk today; tanned and refreshed - following his weekend in Florida. The President promptly resumed work - on that long-promised "State of the Economy" message. The White House later said that the President will make his report to the nation - at noon on Wednesday.

SPACE

For the men of Soyuz-Nine - a new space endurance record today - and they're still going strong. Russian cosmonauts Adrian Nikolayev and Vitaly Sevastianov - at nine thirty-five this morning - matched and then surpassed the old Gemini-Seven mark. Completing thirteen days, eighteen hours and twenty-five minutes in space - a figure that has now been extended to more than two full weeks. Soviet space sources add that the two cosmonauts will probably try to stay in orbit - twenty-one days, in all. A good bet - we are told - in as much as Tass still reports - "their general condition is good - their work efficiency, high."

ASTRONAUT FOLLOW SPACE

U.S. astronauts Frank Borman and James Lovell
- the previous record-holders - were among the first
today to congratulate the new leaders. They sent a message
to the two cosmonauts - telling them: "Your accomplishments
are adding new evidence - supporting the
capability of men to live and work for extended periods in
space." And they added: "We wish you continued success
in this important mission - and safe return to earth."

HOUSTON

U.S. space investigators filed today their final report on the ill-fated flight of America's Apollo-Thirteen... blaming the aborted mission on an electrical short circuit - caused by negligence on the launch pad. The space probers added that Apollo-Thirteen's close call - should serve as "a harsh reminder of the immense difficulty" of lunar flight.

Following the vote, said: "I extend to Mr. Richardson - with my congratulations - and my sympathy."

SENATE

Elsewhere in Washington - the Senate today confirmed unanimously the nomination of Elliot Richardson - as the nation's new Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare. Richardson thus succeeds Robert Finch. The dean of Senate Republicans - George Aiken of Vermont - immediately following the vote, said: - "I extend to Mr. Richardson - both my congratulations - and my sympathy."

SUGGESTED INTRO TO THOMAS TAPE "ALASKA TO SIBERIA"

And now - it's again for Lowell Thomas; telling tonight of another milestone - in the history of flight.

Lowell...