GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

If I sound as though I am somewhere out in space tonight -- perhaps it's because I am at Cape Kennedy -- surrounded by space people. First let's take the headline from South East Asia.

The Communist Viet Cong launched four separate attacks in South Viet Nam today. The strikes were carried out in the north -- an area the Communists apparently hope to cut off completely from Saigon control. In one of the attacks, Viet Cong raiders riddled an American compound with small arms fire and hurled grenades at a Government head-quarters. Another Communist attack wiped out a platoon of South Vietnamese troops. In Saigon, an american spokesman said that Forty U.S. servicemen were killed in action last week -- one-Hundred-Seventeen wounded. The new fatalities brought to

One-Thousand-One Hundred-And Eight the total number of Americans killed in combat in Viet Nam so far.

American combat troops in South Viet Nam are going to hear more from "Hanoi Hannah" -- the girl with the velvet voice who broadcasts Red propaganda from North Viet Nam. Like her World War Two counterpart -- Tokyo Rose -- Hannah has begun a new series of half hour morning radio programs and she'll also go on the air with evening broadcasts. Hannah reads items from American newspapers and magazines, critical of U.S. involvement in the Vietnamese War. She also interviews captured American pilots. As one GI described her: "Hanoi Hannah talks a lot of tripe -- but she sounds okay as a doll."

Official sources in Cambodia say that red tape may delay, possibly for another week, the departure of two American soldiers who were released by the Viet Cong. The two GI's -- George Smith of Chester, West Virginia, and Claude McClure of Chattanooga, Tennessee -- told a news conference that they want to be released from the Army and returned home -- so they can lead a campagain against American involvement in the Vietnamese war.

J. EDGAR

FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover said today that most of the people who participate in the Anti-Vietnamese war demonstrations are "halfway citizens", as he put it. "For the most part," said, J. Edgar, "they're neither morally, mentally nor emotionally mature."

Rusk today challenged the North Vietnamese government to outline the steps toward peace it would take, if the United States called off it's bombing campaign against North Vietnam. Said Dean Rusk: "I am not excluding the possibility of stopping the bombing attacks as a step toward peace." But he said the North Vietnamese have been unwilling to give an answer to his question -- and matters stand unchanged.

Chinese fishing boats and killing some fishermen. A note from Peking, addressed to President Johnson, claimed that American jet planes bombed and strafed Chinese boats on the high seas several times -- and warned that "stern retribution" would follow. A Peking broadcast quoted a Communist official as saying "This account will certainly be settled."

A chartered plane has arrived in Miami with Eighty-Two refugees from Communist Cuba, after a take-off delayed for several hours -- because of mechanical troubled and red tape at Veradero, Cuba. This the first Cuban agreement between Washington and Fidel Castro.

The American Medical Association's House of Delegates -meeting in Philadelphia today -- voted to conduct it's own
investigation of the Johnson Administrations Medicare Program
-- to determine whether it's "constitutional" or not. The
AMA showing no letup in it's fight against medical care for
the aged under Social Security.

BANDITS

Three bandits -- armed with pistols and a shotgun -- robbed a bank at Lake Ozark, Missouri, today and escaped with twenty thousand dollars. The getaway car -- a green Cadillac -- driven by a woman.

All around the world -- final preparations today for

Saturday's scheduled launch of the Gemini-Seven. Ships of

the U.S. Navy -- fanning out across the Atlantic recovery

mange. The network of tracking stations -- spanning the globe

-- all are Astronauts Frank Borman and Jim Lovell -
successfully completing their grueling five-hour physical.

And here at Cape Kennedy -- the tonight a rather special tension

begins to build -- so they tell me.

In space talk -- right now it's officially "T-Minus Three Days" which means that eleventh-hour preparations have now begun -- for the final countdown, for the big one -- the double header.-- the rendevous in space plus that fourteen day endurance test. Technicians, engineers and scientists -- today were cleaning, loading, priming, checking, double-checking. An around-the-clock grind -- to launch the Gemini-Seven, that will go on from there -- till the launch of the Gemini-Six -- mine days later.

Some of America's ablest -- in the field of space exploration some of America's stoutest men -- in the field of space adventure just about set for this historic mission, warren, -- the fourteen-day space endurance record -- and the first rendezvous in space.

With only twenty shopping days left before Christmas, the FBI says that shoplifting is becoming the Nation's fastest growing form of larceny. The light-fingered touch in Department stores has shwon an increase of about Ninety-Three pr cent in the past five years. About five million dollars worth of goods shoplifted last year alone. Most shoplifters women, the FBI says, "probably because of the ease with which a female can conceal stolen articles on and around her person." Some housewives do it because of their small budgets for running the household. They shoplift wearing apparel and food and sometimes even use their children as accomplices -- then bawl them out for their dishonesty if they are caught in the act.