WHITE HOUSE

The White House - a brief visit today from

President Nixon; who interrupted his sojourn at Camp

David to confer with a guest fresh from Saigon. Nguyen

Phu Duc - a special emissary from South Vietnam's

President Thieu; often called - Thieu's Kissinger.

Meeting with the President - clearly to discuss the progress

of the peace talks at Paris - and perhaps to set up a

Thieu-Nixon summit.

CAMP DAVID FOLLOW WHITE HOUSE

Earlier at Camp David - the President continued to shake up his cabinet; announcing the appointment of Peter Brennan - as his new Secretary of Labor.

Peter Brennan - the head of New York's hard hat
construction workers union; also, a long time Nixon
supporter. He was active in "labor leaders for Nixon" - in
Sixty-Eight; and in Nineteen Seventy, lead a parade of a
hundred and fifty thousand "hard hats" in support of the
President's Vietnam policy. Now becoming the first union
leader to enter a cabinet and head the Labor Department
since Martin Durkin under President Eisenhower. The man
he replaces - James Hodgson - is said to have been
offered an appointment in the foreign policy field.

NEW ORLEANS

Fire in New Orleans - the blaze raging through
the three top floors of a sixteen story building trapping
some and forcing others to leap from upper floors. At last
report at least four dead and thirty-three injured.

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At the United Nations - a Middleeast
"one-two." today.

First - Egypt's foreign minister, Mohamed Hassan El = Zayyat; calling for the imposition of economic and military sanctions against Israel 4 for alleged failure to cooperate in Mid-East peace efforts; further suggesting that it might even be necessary to expel Israel from UN membership. El-Zayyat adding that the U N's authority, credibility and relevance are all "at stake" here. Next Israeli Amhassador Yosef Tekoah, blames the Arab nations in general and Egypt in particular - for refusing to engage in face to face peace talks. Tekoah going on to say: "It is evident that as long as Egypt pursues its present policy of confrontation and restraint - it does not want peace with Israel."

The Reverend Father Philip Berrigan will

be a free man again - as of December Twenty. So ordered

today - by a U S parole board. Father Berrigan having

already served more than four years - for destroying

draft records - also, smuggling letters out of Lendy local

Lewisburg, Penitentiary. Along with his brother,

Father Daniel Berrigan, who was paroled earlier -

For California newsman William Farr - who was jailed for refusing to divulge a news source - another turndown today. The California Supreme Court - rejecting his appeal for a writ of habeas corpus; which means - in jail he stays, indefinitely.

At Cape Kennedy - with a week still to go to blast off it was "one more time" today. The men of Apollo Seventeen
running through their lunar flight program "one more
time", in space simulators - successfully completing
the nation's last and toughest lunar landing. And now
ith it's just marking time - till the real thing.

Solved - the mystery of the "ghost that walks" = at West Point. Naval Academy mid-shipman

milliam William Gravell - saying it was all a hoax;

a hoax perpetrated - said he - by the use of a doctored slide, a flashlight some cheese cloth and a fire extinguisher.

Gravell explaining "I wanted something they wouldn't be able to pin on Annual Annapolis but something they would readily swallow. Well, - he went on - they fell for it - fell much further than I would have imaginable imagined.

Gravell admitted, however, the hoax fell kind of flat after two or three times. Why? Because the cadets finally slept right through it - said he.

Down through the ages - throughout the world - men have generally counted as their national treasures - gold and silver - precious gems, oil deposits and so on. Now comes a report that Japan - has added a new category. The Japanese formally listing as "living national treasures" some seventy artists specializing in ancient skills and crafts.

This the culmination of an idea, that began not with a Japanese but an American, General McArthur; who was appalled when he arrived in Japan - to discover the war-time decima destruction of priceless works of art, and the he man encouraged the Japanese "to safeguard those who carried or Japan's creative traditions."

Incidentally, the Dean of Japan's "living treasures" - one Gonroku Matsuda a specialist in laquer-ware; who recently completed a writing box

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with a Japanese crane on the cover; using the powder shells of quail eggs - to get just the right shade of white.

Gonroku Matsuda recalling that he needed only two dozen and shells - in all but they had to be the same color. In the end - said he - "I bought twenty three hundred - before I found the twenty-four that matched perfectly." Gonroku Matsuda adding:

"I don't believe that Mrs. Matsuda and I will ever eat quail eggs again."

Here's one - Wild Horse Annie rides again. Wild Horse Annie, otherwise known as Mrs. Velma Johnston.

You way recall, the woman who spurred the passage of legislation - aimed at protecting the wild mustangs "Out West". Now named a member of the board that will help administer the protection program. Wild Horse Annie - also the President of Wild Horse Organized Assistance; otherwise known as "whoa".

From South Orange, New Jersey comes the sad story of a chap by the name of James McSweeney.

A family argument - he went out made; heading for a nearby shopping area - where he proceded to break fifteen big plate glass windows - ending up in jail - charged with malicious mischief.

All of which - perhaps is explained by his occupation. He is a professional windowwasher. But not smasher.

Oklahoma City - municipal court - a reckless driving case, jury and all. Leading to a conviction for contempt of court with subsequent set at ninety minutes in pail. For the defendant?

Nope, for one of the jurors. He kept falling asleep.

Gre yau awake, Belo?

Christmas in Hawaii - different, of course, but still a joyous time of year - the same as here on the mainland. Ah, but a fly in the ointment this year. The manager of a big honolulu shopping center - trying, as he put it, "to follow the principles of equality; hiring a woman - to play Santa Claus. As it turned out - "a big mistuke."

"Some of the kids could tell by her finger nails - we are told - and there were others - who could tell by other means. Some of the kids actually shouting: "Santa's a woman!" Their parents - said to be "really aghast." And so a decision at last that womens lib or no - Ms. Santa just had to go.