

STATEMENT

Tues. Jan. 5-'71,

From the White House today ^{comes} a blistering indictment of the just adjourned Ninety-First Congress. President Nixon calling it a Congress - that ^{quote: -} "had the opportunity to write one of the most productive and memorable chapters in the history of American government!" But, "that opportunity was lost" said he. Adding that, indeed, "in the final months and weeks of Nineteen Seventy - especially in the Senate - the nation was presented with the spectacle of a legislative body - that had seemingly lost the capacity to decide and the will to act."

The President then citing twenty-one specific pieces of legislation - which he had requested but which were stalled on Capitol Hill. And three of these - he labeled of prime importance: ~~The trio including~~ his family assistance plan, the welfare reform, - also, a measure under which the states would share in Federal revenues; - also, a proposal to consolidate Federal ~~parts~~

grants -
^ in-aid programs.

In the end - said the President - "the nation was the loser." And he concluded: "Hopefully, the Ninety-Second Congress will pick up where the Ninety-First faltered, - hopefully, it will become the great Congress that the Ninety-First did not become."

~~Ironically~~. The President's statement actually
follow^{ed}~~ing~~ another bill signing ceremony; ~~This one~~ a bill
authorizing the hiring of a court executive - in each of
the nations eleven Federal Circuit Courts; ^{This} an attempt
to relieve the Federal Judges of many housekeeping
and clerical duties. According to Chief Justice Warren
Burger - who was present for the ceremony - ^{this is} a first
step ^{toward} breaking the present legal log jam in the Federal
Courts. The Chief Justice observing that "no system of
justice - can rationally justify delays running into years
between indictment and final disposition."

LAIRD FOLLOW PRESIDENT

Another high level departure from Washington - only another trip - Defense Secretary Laird off on a ten day mission, first Paris and then to Vietnam.

The Secretary telling reporters - he planned to confer with Vietnam peace negotiators. But his main objective he said, "to assess the progress of Vietnamization" and also the present military situation in Vietnam; in order to determine "future troop withdrawals - which can result" therefrom. He seems to believe the administration "will meet or beat" its present May one withdrawal schedule.

Suggested lead-in to Wallace tape

There's a report of a federal housing scandal.

~~And~~ **my CBS colleague Mike Wallace will fill ^{HQ}~~you~~ in**

on this -- Mike:-----

And now, we'll follow Mike with ^{a few more}~~some~~ of tonight's
headlines.....

MOSCOW

From Moscow ^{we hear of a harsh} ~~an announcement today telling of~~

~~a harsh~~ diplomatic note - sent to Washington. The Kremlin warning that it can no longer guarantee the safety - of the four hundred or so Americans now living in the Soviet Union. And this - we are told - because of attacks by "Zionist extremists" on Russians visiting the U.S. The Kremlin explaining that the Americans in question - might be subject to retaliation; especially inasmuch as the U.S. - has, quote "taken no essential measures" to remedy the situation.

This drew
~~All of which - drawing~~ a speedy response

from Washington. The U.S. State Department - saying
it was "deeply concerned and shocked." A spokesman
adding: "The Soviets are raising the specter - of
officially inspired retaliation;" and this - said he "indeed
serious - and most disturbing." ~~But what comes next -~~
~~well, we'll just have to wait and see.~~

UNITED NATIONS

At the United Nations - a resumption of

Mid-East peace talks today - ~~after four months in~~

~~the~~ ^{with} U N special peace envoy Gunnar Jarring -

meeting, in the morning, with Israel's U N Ambassador,

Josef Tekoah;- in the afternoon, with Egypt's U N

Ambassador, Mohammed Hassan El-Zayyat. ~~the~~

Q meeting ~~is~~ with Jordan's ~~own~~ representative ^{will take place} - ~~the next week~~

^{when} ~~any~~ he arrives. - ~~still to come. At the outset though~~

Jarring warning that ^{right now} the outlook is clouded. A U. N.

spokesman adding that ^{at any rate} ~~the best to be said now is~~

~~simply.~~ The talks have begun.

From the University of Washington comes a report of the development of a new pen-like device; not for writing - for reading. This by means of a built in vibrator - which is activated by a miniaturized photo-electric cell to enable the "viewer" to pick out the sizes and shapes of various objects. In laboratory tests, actually permitting blind persons to read - without the aid of braille.

One Dr. Sam Sparks of the University Center for Bio Engineering is the man chiefly responsible. He calls his new pen merely a stepping stone - toward the greater goal of "photoelectric spectacles" for the blind; a development which he now expects in about five years; in the ultimate, - virtually a new set of eyes.

Incidentally, Dr. Sparks chief research assistant - a young man by the name of Dale Hendricks; who has himself been gradually losing his sight.

NEW YORK

Vincent Monte-Sano - president of the Couture Business Council today opened the New York Courture first fashion week of the New Year. According to Monte-Sano America's fashion industry - is now in its "darkest period since the depression;" because the latest designs look "like they had come from a thrift shop or an international bazaar;" this to the point - he continued - where style conscious women are thoroughly confused - and fashion has become "a charade, a masquerade, a giant put-on."

The one sure cure of all this - a bright new look for Seventy-One. Says Vincent Monte-Sano. "The look of the Thirties - has no place in a space and technological age; for that Warren, he tells us would be the same as if we resurrected the D C 3 - to replace the 747."

PRESIDENT FLYS

President and Mrs. Nixon today took off for California, to spend a working holiday - expected to cover eight to ten days.

Meanwhile, the President's Communications Chief, Herb Klein was assessing the results of last night's "Conversation with the President" on TV. On this he believes the President earned "very high marks."

Adding that the President went on and spent about twenty minutes chatting with his interviewers - even after the "on camera" discussion was over.