

At the White House - a surprise news conference today. President Nixon covering a broad range of subjects - both foreign and domestic.

On the break-off of peace talks at Paris - the President said he personally ordered the suspension. He said the Administration is tired of letting the Communists use the negotiations - "as a propaganda forum." The President added: "Whenever anyone is ready to negotiate - we're ready, through public or private channels.

On the appointment of Richard Kleindiesnt as Attorney General - the President said: "He should be confirmed - he will be confirmed." He also denied categorically - that his Administration had given any favors to ITT. On the possibility of achieving an arms limitation agreement with Russia - the President said there's a good chance. And it could come about prior to his mission to Moscow in May. But he added: "We are still very far apart." (over)

On his feud with AFL-CIO President George Meany the President said. "I respect Mr. Meany not only as a powerful labor leader - but as a patriotic American." He also said, however, that "no business man" - and no labor leader - "can take the attitude that the public be damned."

On the progress of Sino-American talks at Paris - the President said: "They're going very well." And "I understand" - he commented - "in total sobriety."

The President expressed confidence that the battle against inflation - will be won; adding the government intends to initiate new programs to bring food prices down - unless there is some improvement soon.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Britains Prime Minister Heath today suspended home rule in Northern Ireland. The London Government has taken over direct control of Ulster's security. Heath said the suspension would last one year. He promised that the policy of interning suspects without trial would be relaxed. And he called for plebiscites in the predominantly Protestant Northern Ireland to determine if the people want to remain British or be joined to the Irish Republic to the south.

Northern Ireland's Prime Minister Faulkner and his cabinet have resigned, but will remain as caretakers for a few days until the British control is accomplished.

LONDON-BELFAST

Public reaction in Northern Ireland - a protest march by thousands of Protestant workers in Belfast. And then a series of terrorist bombings - in Belfast and Londonderry. Militant Catholic leader Eamonn McMann predicted: "There will be a thousand people killed this summer." Militant Protestant leader William Craig - warned "Ulster is closer to civil war" than ever before.

INDOCHINA

Ground action in South Vietnam - was reported virtually quiet today. U.S. air strikes in Laos - reportedly have slowed an enemy advance there. But the city of Phnom Penh - in Cambodia - was again the target of Communist terrorists. A bomb hidden in a truck blew a huge hole in a major bridge. The blast - killing at least two. It disrupted the city's transportation system - for a fourth straight day.

BERRIGAN

A surprise development today at the trial of Father Philip Berrigan and six other anti-war activists. The defense unexpectedly rested its case without calling a single witness. The defendants told newsmen in Harrisburg later that they took a vote last night and four of them favored presenting no defense while the three others opposed such a step. One of the accused, Sister Elizabeth McAlister, said "the position we have taken is a very risky one." The defendants are accused of plotting to kidnap Presidential aide Henry Kissinger, blow up heating systems in Washington and raid draft boards.

SENATE

The Senate today completed action on temporary funds for Radio Free Europe which carries American reports to Iron Curtain countries. The funds will keep the operation on going at Radio Free Europe and at Radio Liberty until June. Congress will determine the final fate of the operations before then.

MIDDLE EAST

In the Middle East, Egypt's influential publisher Mohamed Haikal, who edits Al Ahram, says that Egypt should fight a limited war against Israel to improve Egypt's bargaining position.

He did not indicate how such a war could be "limited!"

CENTRAL AMERICA

Ever since the days of Balboa, Pizarro, Buccaneer Sir Henry Morgan, and so on, I suppose people have wondered why those small Central American countries haven't been able to unite, wouldn't such a union make them a more potent force?

For many years now, soccer, football, has been a popular game, throughout Central and South America, and to indicate how explosive these people are, how easily aroused, one attempt at South American union was broken up by a football game.

Leonard Saccio, one of our South American ambassadors, has spent a great deal of time in Central America, and he says the basic problem is the fact that racially there are such sharp differences. He points out that the population of Guatemala is sixty percent pure Indian and forty half-cast, mixture of Spanish and Indian. Honduras populated by negroes and half-casts. Salvador ninety percent half cast. Costa Rica almost all pure

Spanish, and known for their beautiful women. Nicaragua, half cast on the Pacific side, with the Atlantic part of the country inhabited by negroes and people of West Indian origin. Panama heavily negro with an upper class of pure Spanish. From this it can be seen how difficult it would be ever to get these Central American countries to unite.

SUGGESTED FOLLOW TO THOMAS TAPE "UNITY"

Thank you, Lowell.

We'll have a final story - in a moment.

GENERAL MOTORS

A tentative agreement has been reached in the strike against the General Motors plant at Lordstown, Ohio, where Vegas are assembled. The basic cause of the dispute was the claim of union members that working conditions were not acceptable. The membership of the union will vote Sunday on ratification of the new agreement, details of which have not been disclosed. The strike lasted twenty-one days. For Lowell Thomas - this is Stuart Novins -

Good Night!