WASHINGTON

In Washington Secretary of State William Rogers met today with the Swiss Ambassador to Havana. Silvio Masnata - who serves as an intermediary between the U.S. and Cuba; delivering to Rogers the text of a Cuban draft - for a proposed agreement between the U.S. and Cuba aimed at curbing air piracy.

Rogers then stating the U.S. view - to be relayed to Havana. Exactly what it was - not disclosed. However, Rogers later telling reporters that "a foundation for an agreement has been laid."

RULES FOLLOW WASHINGTON

In the meantime though - an effort to minimize
the skyjacking danger as much as possible. The U.S.

Transportation Department today ordering the nation's
airlines - to tighten anti-hijacking screening procedures;
also, to inspect all hand luggage - before it's carried on,
board.

Transportation Secretary John Volpe explaining that
recent acts of air piracy - have shown "an increasing
disregard for human life." Adding, therefore: "The most
effective procedures possible must be instituted - as a means
of preventing such acts."

In the quest for peace at Paris - a brief time-out.

The U.S. and North Vietnam - calling off today's scheduled negotiating session; apparently to permit both sides - to continue consulations with their home governments. The Florida White House adding only: "It was mutually agreed - the two sides would meet tomorrow."

The new Secretary of Housing and Urban Development

- James T. Lynn. So announced today at Key Biscayne as the President continues his second-term shakeup. Lynn

moving over from the Commerce Department - where he
served as Undersecretary.

The President also announced today - still another

Cabinet holdover. Rogers & M. Morton - to continue on as

Secretary of the Interior. A spokesman saying: "The

President feels that he" - Morton - "has provided strong

leadership - and will continue to do so in the second term."

The installation of air bags as auto safety devices originally scheduled to become mandatory as of Nineteen-Seventy-Five. As of today though - an indefinite delay; with a Federal Appeals Court at Cincinnati - ordering further tests.

Judge John Peck stressing, however - that the ultimate goal remains the same. "The idea" - said he - "is to assure that when the car stops dead - the passengers don't."

On Capitol Hill - another session of the Senate

Hunger Committee; hearing today from Dr. George Briggs
a Professor of Nutrition at the University of California;

who said that the eating habits of Americans, rich and poor
are simply "terrible."

Dr. Briggs under that this leads to "undernourished mothers and sickly infants, - physically and mentally inferior children, - absenteeism in the working force - great loss of ife from cardiovascular disease and hypertension;" also, "dental decay - alcoholism - and diseases of diabetes, obesity and digestive disturbance."

All of which cost the nation - about Thirty Billion a year said he; including "nearly one-third - of our total annual health bill."

Dr. Briggs coming to the inescapable conclusion as he put it - that the U.S. is "a nation of nutritional illiterates."

At the same time, a second Senate panel was probing today - the value of home health remedies.

Lead-off witness: Dr. Richard Hornick of the University of Maryland School of Medicine - who questioned the use of special medications for treating the common cold. "We have found" - said he - that where a cold is concerned "aspirin alone is a very excellent drug;" and the sooner - the better.

Next - Dr. Sol Katz of Georgetown University.

When asked what he himself would recommend in treating

a cold - saying: "Hot chicken soup is very good." You see
mother really knew best.

From the U.S. Supreme Court - an order today overturning a previous California ruling. The High Court holding that live and filmed sex shows - may be legally banned from places where liquor is sold by the drink.

Justice Rehnquist - who wrote the majority opinion recognizing "the Constitutional protection of freedom of expression;" but he also cited the "broad sweep" of the Twenty-First Amendment - which repealed Prohibition.

This - said he - "conferring something more than the normal state authority - over public health, welfare and morals."

At Cape Kennedy - a last-minute proving today;
with the space center high command - reviewing all aspects
of tomorrow night's scheduled Apollo-Seventeen moon-launch.
Mission Director Chester Lee later saying that "everything
indicates - we are in a go position."

assessment

Meanwhile, the men of Apollo-Seventeen - getting in a few hours of flying time in jet trainers; the better to head off - possible space sickness. Back on the ground, they also practiced a number of procedures - designed to cope with possible space emergencies. Right now though - it couldn't look better.

The other day TV executive James Hagerty - a former aide to the late President Eisenhower; put forward a number of proposals for streamlining our Presidential elections - which all agree do need streamlining.

Jim Hagerty urged a realistic curb - on campaign spending; along with shorter campaigns - using mainly the mass media instead of old-style barnstorming tours. Jim also calls for an end - to the plethora of public opinion polls. "While polls may not affect votes on election day" - says ex-White House Secretary Hagerty - "polls obviously do influence contributions, the morale of candidates and their supporters - and, in all probability, the general tone of each campaign."

The latest Gallup Poll actually is said to show that seven out of ten Americans more or less agree. The Gallup people further asserting that "basic in the thinking of many American - is the belief that every person should have an equal chance to run for office; and that money - should

not be a controlling factor."

Here in New York - a four-day dental meeting;

featuring the presentation of a number of papers - filled

with all sorts of interesting tidbits. For example, Dr. Roy

Langer of Florida reporting that the average person

swallows - about two thousand times a day. Which may be

true, Bill - but I find that a bit hard to swallow?

From the U.S. Postal Service comes a warning today: It's later than you think. The Postal Service going on to say - if your Christmas packages are not mailed by Sunday, they may not arrive in time for the big day.

Adding that cards, too, should be in the mail - before the end of next week.

In short, mail early - avoid the rush.

The Anne date wall payers. " And Mr.