GOOD EVENING:

Federal agents, here in New York, have arrested a twenty-seven year old man, Andrew Topping, and charged him with plotting to assassinate the President.

For the story, here is Chris Kelly in New York.

In Vietnam-the end of an era. The U.S. Command in Saigon, today ordering the withdrawal of America's last ground combat unit still in Vietnam.

The men of the Third Battalion of the Twenty-First Infantry Division - heading home, at last, like all the rest; nearly half-a-million, in all - who were previously pulled back over the past three-and-a-half years.

On the campaign trail a public apology from George

McGovern at Providence, Rhode Island, where the Senator

apologized to State Chairman Larry McGarry over the

division of delegates at the recent Democratic Convention.

It was all the result of a "legitimate misunderstanding,

simple and honest" - said Senator McGovern, would now

asks the State Chairman's support and confidence."

But when Chairman McGarry was asked if he support

McGovern, he said pointedly "Yeah - one thousand per cent."

Later, when Senator McGovern arrived here in

New York he was asked whether the withdrawal of the last

ground troops in Vietnam - will remove the war as a

campaign issue. He replied emphatically no, saying:

"Have the people forgotten already - the little children

running from American bombs?"

For the Republicans - Secretary of State William

Rogers, front and center today; attempting to refute a

charge - from Sargent Shriver; that the President missed

a "historic opportunity" for peace in Vietnam - back in

Nineteen-Sixty-Nine.

Not true - said Secretary Rogers; he said: A check of communications from Mr. Shriver, when he was

Ambassador to France - shows no such evidence; Mr.

Shriver is engaging in, "political fantasy," said the

Secretary of State, who then lashed out - at former

Attorney General Ramsey Clark; for statements he made about alleged U.S. bombing of innocent civilians in North

Vietnam. Secretary Rogers said: "I am shocked - it's beyond belief - it's contemptible."

Secretary of Housing George Romney - back in Washington from a tour of the flood stricken areas in Eastern Pennsylvania today urged President Nixon to make another personal visit to the area - "at the earliest possible moment;" because the "people need to be convinced the President cares." Then - a meeting with reporters where Secretary Romney said he would like to leave his Cabinet post - to devote himself "in a private capacity to public problems." But he added - the President has persuaded him to stay on temporarily. And as far as the campaign is concerned - George Romeny said: "I expect to support the President - I have no question about his superiority."

At Tyndall Air Force Base in Florida - the verdict today of guilty: Air Force Master Sergeant Walter Perkins - convicted of stealing military secrets with the intention of passing them to the Russians.

But the Sergeant's sentence - was set at only three years; although he could have received - as much as twenty-six years. His mother exclaiming: "Thank God - this is Heaven!"

Another story of grim retribution; from Northern

Ireland: A young girl attempting to plant a bomb in a food

store in a busy Belfast shopping center; when she was chased

out - she hurried back to a waiting car; and at once, there

was a tremendous explosion. The girl and a young male

companion - killed instantly.

Ore deposits that yield asbestos and talc - are often found inter-mixed in their natural states; and often a little of each - slip through in the refining process. Hence - an order today from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration; banning the use of talc in foods and food packaging - unless the talc is totally free of asbestos. This in line with the recent findings - that asbestos, when inhaled, can cause cancer. Government experts note that talc is used in the manufacture - of any number of products; besides the obvious - polished rice - chewing gum - and papers, cottons and so on used in all kinds of food packaging.

At Reykjavik, Iceland - Bobby Fischer wins again; finally taking the measure of Russia's Boris Spassky - in the seventy-fourth move of yesterday and today's recordlength match. In his quest of the world chess champion-ship, Fischer leads - eight-to-five.

SUGGESTED LEAD-IN TO THOMAS TAPE "ANIMALS"

Next - Lowell Thomas; discussing tonight a return to nature - in the Holy Land. Lowell...

ANIMALS HOLY LAND

wavy horns.

Here's one - an attempt to save from extinction the fabled Biblical animals of the Holy Land; an attempt
sponsored in part - by the Holy Land Conservation Fund of
New York; all under the direction of retired General Abraham
Yoffe - the director Israel's new Nature Reverves Authority.

General Yoffe explaining that "many of these Old

Testament creatures - are already extinct in Israel and

fast disappearing elsewhere." But adding - there's still

time. As demonstrated by the recent establishment of Hai

Bar South in the Negev Desert - Israel's first habitat park.

The animals now ensconced there - safe at last

from marauding nomads and the inroads of modern civilization

including: More than four thousand gazelle - some two

hundred Syrian water buffalo - twelve onagers or Persian

wild ass - four scimitar-horned oryx from Chad - a number

of Nubian ibex or wild goat - and four addax with their long

The park's master plan also calls for the eventual addition - of Judean lion, Syrian bear, Arabian oryx, fallow deer and roe deer; most of which - can still be obtained in Iran; with negotiations - now underway.

The Holy Land Conservation Fund noting: "It is especially fitting that during the same era in which Jews were returning to Israel after being scattered across the earth so too would return the wild animals which inhabited the land millenia ago."

SUGGESTED FOLLOW TO THOMAS TAPE "ANIMALS"

Thank you, Lowell.

The news the world has been waiting for - from

Monte Silvano, Italy; there an inventor by the name of

Gravino Agostinoni has joined the immortals - by inventing

the world's first fully-automated spaghetti-making machine.

The way it works - says Signor Agostinoni is this: You put a little flour and water in one end - and out the other end come forty plates of spaghetti. With the addition of sauce and cheese - we are told - the correct description is magnifico. But not for Italians, apparently; Signor Agostinoni saying: "I hope I can sell my machine - to the Americans." The name of this remarkable device latest boon to mankind - is still to be chosen. But here in New York - perhaps the best suggestion comes from a local headline writer who calls it simply - the "burp gun. "

Robert Trout saying Good Night.