

*(taken from carbon - original lost)*

*Monday, March 9, 1970*

*Mike Wallace*

**LAOS**

*U. S. involvement in Laos - or lack of same - the big topic today in Washington. Senator Cranston of California, for one - charging that increased numbers of Americans are being sent from South Vietnam into Laos; under orders - said he - if captured, to say "they got lost." Senator Symington of Missouri and Senator Javits of New York - also challenging the veracity of recent Administration statements on Laos.*

*Nevertheless, President Nixon drew strong support today - from Senate Majority Leader Mike Mansfield - from Senator Cooper of Kentucky - who has ranked as the most consistent critic of U. S. policy with regard to Laos. Senator Cooper calling the President's Laotian report of last week - completely "factual." Senator Mansfield saying the President had "made public - as much as he could." Senator Scott blaming the hue and cry - on those "who would like to*

*see a Democratic candidate have something to talk about."*

*Those - he added - who are attempting "to make Laos look  
as bad as Vietnam."*

MOSCOW

*A related item - from Moscow. The Kremlin today condemning - alleged U.S. involvement in Laos. An article in Pravda - the official Communist Party newspaper - calling this a prime example of the U.S. "mania to introduce the American way of life everywhere."*

**BEIRUT FOLLOW MOSCOW**

*Reverse side - a story today from Beirut. Reporting that five Russian advisers have been killed during the past month or so - while serving with Egyptian troops in the Middle East. All five - said to have been the victims of Israeli air strikes.*

## PARIS FOLLOW BEIRUT

Meanwhile, in Paris - the Big Four was said to be working on a new Mideast peace formula. This - according to French Foreign Minister Maurice Schumann; who said the new plan - would eliminate at least one major stumbling block; in that it would not call for unconditional Israeli evacuation - from all occupied Arab lands.

What it would call for - exactly - that he didn't say. However, Schumann setting as the ultimate goal - another demilitarized zone between Arab and Israeli forces; one that would again be controlled - by United Nations forces.

## VIETNAM

*Speaking of Vietnam - enemy gunners there today launched an attack - against a U.S. artillery base near the Cambodian border. Firing upwards of a hundred-and-fifty mortar shells - in the heaviest such bombardment this year. However, the enemy barrage fell short, for the most part - inflicting only minimal casualties; whereas U.S. return fire quickly knocked out four enemy bunkers.*

*In another development - the U.S. Army today assumed command of Vietnam's five northernmost provinces. Thus freeing from duty some seven thousand U.S. Marines - who will be heading home, as of tomorrow.*

## SAIGON

*Meantime, a captured Viet Cong document was made public today - back in Saigon. The enemy paper noting that not one American G.I. - has surrendered willingly to Communist forces in Vietnam. Even "when captured" - the report goes on - the Americans "refuse to move and display a negative attitude and contempt against Communist forces - they even spit at them." The report adds that Americans "seek opportunities to escape - even though they may have been detained for years, have been given our political indoctrination, and may have written propaganda leaflets in our favor."*

*Summing up, the document asserts that , "generally speaking - U.S. servicemen are very stubborn."*



## *EAST BERLIN*

*On the other side of that Berlin Wall - in Communist East Berlin - a fourth meeting today in the new series of talks between East and West Germany. This one - same as the first three - failing to break a deadlock on the status of West Berlin . Thereby dimming the prospect of an early conference - between West Germany's Chancellor Willy Brandt and East Germany's Premier Willi Stoph.*

*However, the two sides - both agreeing to another parley this coming Thursday. Which means - if nothing else - they are still talking.*



## FRANKFURT

*All of which - serves as a sort of ironic preamble to this next: An East German official - arrested by West German officials today in Frankfurt. The prisoner - one Hasso Schlesinger - ostensibly a representative of the East German Ministry for Cultural Affairs; but charged now - with attempting to set up a Communist spy ring. This presumably to replace an earlier Communist spy ring - which was smashed only last week.*

WASHINGTON

*Turning to the domestic front - the Nixon*

*Administration today asked Congress for broad powers in dealing with lawbreakers; including the right to compel suspects in Federal cases - to submit to checks of their fingerprints, their blood and their saliva, among other things - even prior to being charged.*

*However, Attorney General John Mitchell stressed that this would be done - only on the issuance of a specific court order. He also pointed out there is, at present, "no statutory method - to require suspects in criminal cases to assist in such quickly-performed identification procedures."*

## SENATE

*Elsewhere in Washington - Senator Goldwater of Arizona today presented a forceful plea - for granting eighteen-year-olds the right to vote. The former Republican Presidential nominee - testifying before a Senate panel. Asserting that television and so-called "liberal newspapers" have pictured young people - as "an unclean, vile-tongued, rock-throwing, campus-storming, street-rioting bunch of hoodlums and misfits;" when, in reality - said he - this picture is "distorted, stupid and absolutely wrong."*

*The Senator then went on to state - as he has before - that the present generation of young people is probably the "best ever." He further dismissed as poppycock - a charge that eighteen-year-olds are too idealistic to vote wisely. "Some more idealism - would do us all good" - said Barry Goldwater. Adding: "It might help remove the crusty, shopworn reasons - why the policies and goals which are promised to voters don't ever seem to get accomplished."*