GOOD EVENING:

President Nixon met today with Congressional leaders; a session originally set up - to discuss wage and price controls; one that ended up - with a Presidential briefing on Vietnam. Details were later disclosed - by White House Press Secretary Ron Ziegler.

The President was quoted as saying he had ordered restrictions on U.S. military operations - when peace talks appeared to be going well; he had removed those restrictions - he said - when it became apparent the Communist side was stalling. The President was said to have discussed - Monday's scheduled resumption of the peace talks; saying he was neither optimistic - nor pessimistic. And he stressed that Congressional opposition - would not deter him from seeking, quote, "a proper kind of settlement."

Influenza or upper respiratory diseases have been reported now in seventeen states, the National Center for Disease Control reported Friday.

Georgia and North Carolina were added Friday to the growing list of states where influenza or similar respiratory illnesses have been reported.

At San Jose, California, the coroner's office said

English, or London Flu, has contributed to at least

fourteen deaths in Santa Clara County. A public health

spokesman said the virus outbreak reached epidemic

proportions in the San Jose area during Christmas week. Dr.

Robert J. Rubin, an epidemiologist at the National Center

here, said there are at present outbreaks of influenza in

Boston, New York, the Baltimore-Washington area, San

Francisco Bay area and in Memphis, Tenn.

"It cannot now be determined if the English Flum will become widespread throughout the country." he said. Those states where London Flue previously was reported include

New York, Maryland, California, Hawaii, Arizona, Colorado, Kansas, Texas, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Tennessee, Illinois, Washington and New Jersey.

After two weeks of intense cold - warm and sunny weather returned to Israel today. For many though - it was too late. Government officials estimate crop damage - more than Twelve Million dollars - calling it the worst loss - since the founding of the state twenty-five years ago.

A spokesman adding: "If we don't have rain in the next week or ten days - it will be terrible."

Historic Washington Cathedral was the site of a final tribute today to the late Harry Truman; with those in attendance including Margaret Truman Daniel and her husband - Vice President Spiro Agnew - and a host of dignitaries from around the world.

The eulogy - from the Reverend Francis Sayre, Dean of the Cathedral; who said that Mr. Truman was "earthy and plain" - and "fhere were no wrinkles in his honesty;" adding that thus he was "ready" - when the "mantle of greatness" was thrust upon him. "He stepped to the anvil" - said the Reverend Mr. Sayre - "humble but not afraid - relying always in his independent way upon the goodness of the Lord - in whose hands is the hammer of our fate."

At the U.S. Manned Spacecraft Center in Houston the men of Apollo-Seventeen today held a traditional postflight news conference; disclosing little new, but pledging
to spend as much time as possible - telling the American
people of their adventures in space, in an effort to bolster
the
interest in continuing (U.S. space program.

Mission Commander Gene Cernan claimed that science

- "is probably the most important part of this program."

He asserted that everyone from the "poor farmer in South

Dakota to the orange grove plantation owner in Florida"

- has benefited from lunar exploration.

Then - a brief summation from the first U.S.

spaceman-scientist. Geologist Jack Schmitt - who observing that "something different has happened in the last ten years."

"What excites the whole world" - said he - "that man has shown he can go somewhere away from earth - and show he can live there." Schmitt adding that man - "now has started to expand his experiences."

The U.S. unemployment rate was unchanged last month. It remained at five-point-two per cent, a two-year low - according to government figures announced today.

Better still, the number of persons with jobs jumped to a record high of nearly eighty-three million. An
improvement - Chairman Herbert Stein of the President's
Council of Economic Advisers called "one of the best on
record." Stein added that "all indications - point to
continuing strong economic expansion in Nineteen-SeventyThree."

DOMESTIC FOLLOW WHITE HOUSE

The President apparently got tired of waiting; at any rate, he is trying to accomplish by Executive Order - his long-sought government reorganization plan; Today he named three so-called "super bureaucrats."

These include Agriculture Secretary Earl Butz
Health, Education and Welfare Secretary-designate Caspar

Weinberger - and Housing and Urban Development Secretary

-designate James Lynn; each of whom will now have the

responsibility for coordinating programs - in a broad

variety of departments and agencies. They join in that

category - Treasury Secretary George Shultz.

The President also accepted today - the resignation of Robert Ball, veteran head of the Social Security System.

No successor - as yet.

This last - from Aarrhus, Denmark; where
gamekeeper Hans Nielsen says he has just turned down an
offer of Twenty-Three Hundred Dollars - for his favorite
pointer; an offer - supposedly coming from Jacqueline
Kennedy Onassis. Nielsen explain "He's a good dog and I'm not sure a life as Mrs. Onassis' pet would suit him.

Nielsen adds, in any event - the dog is now working better than ever. "When he makes a mistake - said the gamekeeper - "all I have to do is yell, 'get moving or I'll sell you to Onassis' - and he's back on the scent."

All of which - you can believe it or not.

Mike Wallace for Lowell Thomas.