In the great heartland of America - the battle is on with President Nixon and Senator McGovern - at it head-to-head today; vying for the hearts and votes of the American electorate - doing it with a ringing display of campaign oratory.

CHICAGO-UTICA FOLLOW MINNEAPOLIS

President Nixon flew to Chicago - and addressed

the National Convention of the American Legion. Drawing

loud and prolonged applause when the criticized those

he referred to as "some others" who are calling for drastic

cuts in defense spending. Such cuts would leave us

"hopelessly behind" - said he. Adding: "We can't let that

happen to America!"

And then a thunderous ovation - when he touched

briefly on the amnesty issue. "Instead of making heroes of
a few hundred who have deserted" - said he - "let's honor at
the real heroes who have served their country."

Next stop - Utica, Michigan; where the President attended dedication ceremonies - at a new Dwight David Eisenhower High School; there issuing a statement that forced busing to achieve racial integration - is patently wrong. "It adds nothing whatever to a child's learning" - said he. Adding: That "an hour-and-a-half-a-day on a bus - will, if anything, impair the education process,

CHICAGO-UTICA FOLLOW MINNEAPOLIS -2

whatever a child's race or color."

MINNEAPOLIS FOLLOW CAMPAIGN

Senator McGovern in a speech to the American

Federation of Teachers at Minneapolis - called the

Republican National Convention a "slick and cynical"

spectacle. Adding that President Nixon represents - only

the "forces of privilege and greed."

But the Democratic nominee drew his loudest applause - when he promised to work for legislation giving teachers the right to strike, not only for higher pay - but also to bring about changes in educational methods.

McGovern contending that: "Teachers belong in school - or on a picket line, if necessary - but not in jail."

MIAMI BEACH FOLLOW CHICAGO-UTICA

Back at Miami Beach - spiro Agnes, was also getting in a word or two. In the last race - said hag now, "it became essential for me to be a cutting edge - to cut through the fog." But "that situation doesn't exist this time"

The the Vice President Adding that he plans to "obliterate" his past image - and campaign "solely on the issues."

Said Spire Agnes: "If I sound more conciliatory -

it's because I am."

CINCINNATI FOLLOW MIAMI BEACH

As for Sargent Shriver - the Democratic nominee for Vice President at Cincinnati addressing a meeting - of the International Molders and Allied Workers Union said George McGovern - "has consistently championed the cause of union members." Further Sargent Shriver was charging that President Nixon - "instead of being a peacemaker" - is really "the Number One war-maker in the world at this time."

From Cape Kennedy - some good news and some not so good.

First - the good news: The Apollo-Seventeen spacecraft - America's last scheduled moonship - successfully mounted today atop its Saturn-Five rocket.

The "whole shooting match" - scheduled for delivery to the launch pad, come Monday.

Now - the other news: Space officials announcing today - another cutback in personnel. Some two hundred space workers to be dropped this fall - plus another three hundred soon to follow. Does this mean for America's bold space exploration the beginning of the end? I suspect not.

A new attempt at controlling the elements - is
reported today from Boulder, Colorado. This - under
the auspices of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric
Administration; with a team of government scientists attempting to suppress electrical storms over a two hundredsquare-mile area.

How? By seeding potential thunder clouds - with fine aluminum fibers; making it rain - and thereby preventing the voltage build-ups that often lead to lightning bolts. A government spokesman noting: "If lightning could be totally suppressed - there would be seventy per cent fewer forest fires in the West."

The war news from Vietnam - again tells of fierce fighting today at Quang Tri City. A force of South Vietnamese Marines - battling their way right up to that walled Communist citadel in the center of town. But they soon found their position untenable we are told - they were forced to withdraw.

In the world chess championship at Reykjavik, Iceland
- a decision today worthy of Solomon.

You may recall, Bobby Fischer earlier demanding
the removal - of the first seven rows of spectators seats.

Too close - too much noise - said he. Request - partly granted.

Ah, but Boris Spassky and his seconds - complaining about unauthorized "changes in the playing hall," demanding a return of the rows of seats. Request also granted.

Except that they were quickly roped off.

Bill Martin, in the parlance of the chess world - check and mate would you say?

At Kuala Lumpur - an order today from the Malaysian government saying: No hippies allowed. Said hippie ban - to take effect as of September One. The government adding that any hippies now in Malaysia - will also be ordered to leave by then. This - we are told - in an effort to preserve the "decency and morals" of Malaysia.