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The White House - President Nixon sent to Congress today - a special message on veterans benefits. The President saying: "On the whole, the situation of the American veteran today - is a good one; the average veteran has a higher income, more education and better health - than non-veterans of the same age." Adding, however - that much remains to be done.

The President therefore, urging an ~~ind~~ increase in veterans benefits - to more than thirteen billion during the next fiscal year; nearly double ~~the amount~~ appropriated ~~as recently as~~ ⁱⁿ Nineteen Sixty-Nine. The new benefits to include an eight percent increase for schooling - as well as higher pensions.

The President also urging passage of a bill - to restore the traditional observance of Veterans Day; on November eleventh -- instead of the newly enacted fourth Monday in ~~the~~ October. This - said he - "in view of the confusion which has arisen - and in

view especially of the position ~~is~~ taken by veterans themselves."

SUEZ

In the Middle East - Israel today completed the first phase of its withdrawal - from the West Bank of the Suez. Israeli troops lifting their siege on Suez the City at the Mediterranean end of The Canal, also freeing Egypt's trapped Third Army in return for which Egypt is now expected to "thin out" its troops - in the Sinai.

HAVANA

Soviet Communist Party leader Brezhnev - was a visitor today in ~~the~~ the western hemisphere. Flying to Cuba ^{for} ~~with~~ talks with ~~Fidel~~ Castro. As he passed by the U S - also sending a personal message to President Nixon. ~~"He~~ "Flying close to the shores of the United States," said he; "I express the best wishes to you, Mr. President, to the government and the people of the United States." Brezhnev adding that he was confident that relations will be developing further to the benefit of our two ~~countries~~ countries - in the interest of international security - and universal peace."

PENTAGON

From the Pentagon ^{we have} a report ~~today~~ that Russia has just begun to test -- a new ~~intercontinental~~ intercontinental missile with multiple warheads. The first test firings - ~~said to have taken place Friday and Saturday. The new missile - reportedly launched~~ from a Soviet test station in Siberia; landing about forty-five hundred miles away, ~~in an area~~ northwest of Midway Island in Mid-Pacific.

A Pentagon spokesman adding that the multiple warhead ^{And may} ~~missile~~ - ~~could~~ be deployable by late Nineteen Seventy-Five or early Nineteen Seventy-Six."

ENERGY

Utility firms in thirty nine states today were ~~not~~ guaranteed enough oil - to meet ninety-five percent of their normal energy needs. Energy Czar William Simon also pledging to move this week - to equalize home ~~and~~ heating oil prices. Adding that he hopes gasoline production ~~and~~ can be stepped up soon - to stave off rationing.

CAPITOL HILL

Capitol Hill again - Congressman Bingham of New York today introduced a proposed constitutional amendment - an attempt to eliminate the provision that a President must be a "natural born" ~~citizen~~ citizen of the United States. This inspired in part, by the recent achievements of Henry Kissinger - who was born in Germany. Congressman Bingham asking "why should a citizen of Kissinger's talents be barred from the Presidency?"

PORTER

A former official of the Committee to re-elect the President pleaded guilty today to lying to the F B I about the Watergate case. Herbert Bart Porter saying he did so - for fear that he might be accused of "not being a team player." He was then freed on personal bond - pending a probation report.

EARTH ORBIT

*High above the earth today the men of Sky Lab
Three were completing their seventy-fourth day in orbit
with only eleven more - still to do: They now are
completing as many experiments as possible also
stepping up their exercises - the better to re-adapt to
gravity when they return to earth.*

BRISBANE

Over the past five days - more than thirty-two inches of rain in Queensland, Australia. The resulting flood waters - now covering about two thirds of a million acres including fully a quarter of Brisbane - a city of over seven hundred thousand. The Lord Mayor, Clem Jones calling it "a total disaster."

KAMPALA

President Amin of Uganda was again flipping his wig today - figuratively and literally. Amin banning the wearing of wigs - in government offices and at public ~~functions~~ functions. The President saying he does not want ~~Uganda~~ Ugandans to wear the hair of dead Imperialists -- or of Africans, killed by Imperialists.

LONDON

In Britain - a competition sponsored by the State run gas ~~and~~ industry on how ~~to~~ best to save gas. The winning suggestion translated into an ad - which is now being circulated throughout the country. It shows a man and a woman - sitting in ~~on~~ a bath=tub the caption saying: "Put a bit of romance into your bath - by sharing the water."

All of this - as you might expect - causing quite

some ripples
a flap

Officials explaining ~~how~~ however the couple are clearly husband and wife. *Bill, would you call it* ~~no~~ *a double ring*

ceremony?

PAT

The White House again - a reception for the wives of NATIONAL RELIGIOUS BROADCASTERS. First Lady Pat Nixon serving as hostess - along the way, answering a few questions from Lady reporters.

Does the President really get up at night and play the piano? He plays before he goes to ~~bed~~ bed - said Mrs. Nixon. Adding: "He is in good health - and I love him dearly - and I have great faith."

Mrs. Nixon also said that most of the women who came through the receiving line - told her they had "faith in the President." In response - she continued - "I told them to pray for the press."