TOPEKA

For President Ford - a tremendous welcome today in Topeka; with more than ten thousand cheering his arrival at the Kansas State Capital.

Inside, another standing ovation - from a joint session of the Kansas State Legislature; whereupon the President casting aside his prepared text chose instead to belabor the Democratic controlled congress - for failure to pass his new energy and economic proposals.

Along the way - the President also announcing the immediate release - of up to two billion in Federal highway funds - a move expected to generate - about one hundred and twenty-five thousond new jobs. The President further telling of plans for a rebate program - to help farmers pay their higher energy costs. "As long as I am President" - said he - "I will not let American agriculture run out of gas." Back in Washington - the Senate finance Committee was supposed to take up two bills today. The first aimed at rescinding the President's oil tariff increase the second, aimed at raising the **ceilings** ceiling on the national debt. But neither - coming to vote.

This because of a lack of quorumy - without with only seven of the committee's eighteen members preseent. The rest apparently taking adju advantage of a house because break to do some politicking back home. Committee Chairman Russell Long later saying that both measures - will probably be held over titl at least with next week. LONDON

In London Britain's Margaret Thatcher today completed the job she began last week. The forty-nine year old former Education Minister - winning election as the new head of Britain's conservative Party; thereby succeeding former Prime Minister Edward Heath - whom she previously forset from office.

Mrs. Thatcher thus in line to become Britain's first woman Prime Minister f if the Conservatives f win the next election. For now though f say ing she plans to concentrate on rebuilding the party. Mrs. Thatcher also telling newsmen - she was "very, very thrilled." JER USA LEM

Secretary State Kissinger, in Jerusalem, today conferred with Israeli officials for a second straight day. Israeli foreign minister - Yigal Allon 4 later saying the consultation had been "very productive". But Doctor Kissinger, was clearly productive". But Doctor Kissinger, avoid un-due optimism, Saying he was "making no attempt at this stage - to engage in actual negotiations," His first goal - said he - that of gaining a full understanding of all the cox nuances of extx each side's second

SCHLESINGER

Defense Secretary James Schlesingerg sent to to Capitol Hill, today, his annual report, to Congress. Schlesinger saying among other things, that the chinese have encountered some unexpected indigerx difficulties - in developing full range intercontinental massi ballistics mainssiles. Schlesinger adding that it now appears China will be unable to achieve full intercontinental missile capability - till mid-<u>n</u>ineteen eighty - at the earliest. 1

Washington again - an attack today on the sti growing "the instutionalization" of mental patients. This from President Gerry Wurf of the American demater Federation of State, County and municipal employees - whose members, staff, many institutions. Wurf saying mental patients are being turned out by the thousands. - often with no place to go, "It's worse than a snake pit" said he. With the nation's most dependent citizens" ending up "among addicts, manness alcoholics, and prostitutes on America's new Skid Rows.

MAURITIUS

Topeka again - a kiss for the President.

It came from Kansas state representative Sharon Hess - who, with her husband standing by, asked if it would be all right. The President saying okay and she kissed him on the cheek.

Mrs. Hess, later, bushed, said :-Mrs. Hess, later, bushing prettily - saying.

"It was nice - sort of like kissing your father."

and now -

Once again today - here and in Britain - the annual Shrove Tuesday pancake race; with the first leg at Olney, England, Fighteen year old Sally Anne Faulkner , the first ever to break & minuted covering the way. Her record, setting fifty-nine-point-eightseconds. As fato would have it thousand new mark was quickly erased. - On the American leg of the race at Liberal, Kansas, Mrs. Sheila Turner, age twenty-one, covering an identical course - in fifty-eight point four 4-seconds fastur, seconds. <u>A new record</u> by faktor approach and And The Americans now lead in the series fourteen to eleven.

EAT FOLLOW LIBERAL-GOX OLNEY

14

In a similar vein a new record today for

eating pancakes. Nineteen year old Mark Mishon of London - downing sixty-one six inch **Mart** flap-jacks in seven minutes - or nearly double -- the previous record.

After it was all over, young Mark saying: "I enjoyed the first twenty-five - but the after that Fjust rammed them down.