HAVANA

From the government of Cuba - by way of Radio

Havana - an offer today to negotiate a "broad agreement"

with the U.S. - to halt air hijackings. The Cuban statement

noting that such an agreement - would be "in the mutual

interest of both countries." Adding that the whole question

could be settled quickly - if the U.S. would only agree to

reciprocal terms.

## STATE FOLLOW HAVANA

Here at home - a quick response. The U.S. State

Department - observing that similar negotiations in the

past have come to naught. A spokesman adding, however:

"We do have the impression - that there may now be a basis

for reopening discussions." And - he continued - "we

intend to explore this impression."

On the peace front - a temporary lull today; pending the convening of another and possibly final round - of secret negotiations. Reports from both Washington and Paris saying the talks could begin - perhaps as early as this weekend.

In the meantime - President Nixon remains at Camp

David; from there - we are told - conferring by phone

today with Dr. Kissinger. The President also met with

Spiro Agnew - for the first time since the election;

discussing ways and means of streamlining the Federal

bureaucracy + during his second term in office. The Vice

President, as you have, chief White House contact - with

state and local governments.

Cape Kennedy - the three Apollo-Seventeen
astronauts were placed in medical quarantine today pending blast-off December Sixth. Except for continuing
brush-ups - this also marking the end of the astronauts'
official training program. And - about time. Mission
Commander Gene Cernan saying: "As far as I'm concerned
- we're ready to fly now."

Washington again - the start of Congressional
hearings on the future of wage and price controls. Lead-off
witness - Chairman C. Jackson Grayson of the President's
Price Commission; stating that current wage and price
controls - have had a "significant impact" in curbing
inflation; but whether they should be extended beyond next
April - said he - that's for the President to decide.

Grayson also conceded that food prices present a special problem - since many items are still free to fluctuate. Nevertheless, he rejected again the idea of blanket controls - on all food products. "We backed away from that" said he - "because we know what happens when you start down that road; you get shortages pretty soon and a black market" - "and then" - he went on - "rationing is right around the corner."

At Spokane, Washington - another case of Indian backlash. The tribal councils of the Spokane, Coeur D'Alene and Kalispell Indians - sending a joint resolution to the U.S. Department of the Interior; demanding the prosecution of all those who took part - in that takeover last week at the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

"If the Indians involved had come to one of our reservations" - said/three tribes - "they would have been subject to due process from our own courts." The resolution also demanding a full accounting - of all records that were seized during the takeover.

## TALKS FOLLOW SPOKANE

Meanwhile, in Washington, a breakdown in the talks -between Indian dissidents and a special white House task force. The latter refusing to continue - pending the return of all stolen documents.

A spokesman for the task force further noting that the FBI - is still continuing its investigation of the takeover,

Adding that the talks cannot resume - said "until discussion" criminal questions involving the takeover are resolved."

Yesterday - at India's Delhi University - a

demonstration by dissident engineering students. Police were

called to break it up - and this leading to a second

demonstration today over charges of police brutality. Some

three hundred students - attempting to occupy a Vice

Chancellor's office. When that failed - seizing a city bus

and smashing it into a horse-drawn wag on. The crash

killing two women - and seriously injuring three other

persons.

Atop the biggest hotel in Burley, Idaho - a big,
thirty-foot marquee. And the message it bears today: "Eat
more lamb - two hundred thousand coyotes can't be wrong."

Explanation - inside. That's where the Idaho Wool Growers Association - is holding its eightieth annual convention. Association President R.J. Rich charging that Federal officials have passed laws and issued orders - based on "a lack of knowledge of the facts and a great tide of emotionalism." These laws - said he - providing for the protection of predators - "instead of the protection of lambs, calves and game animals."

The President of the National Wool Growers

Association - also there. Vern Vivion telling his fellow sheepmen: "The predator problem - is putting us out of business." And this - said he - at a time when the whole world is on the verge of a wool shortage.

by snowmobiles.

From up North at Ottawa - a status report on the new Royal Canadian Mounted Police. The Mounties now numbering about ten thousand men - as compared with an original complement of only a hundred and fifty. The new breed - serving as a modern nationwide police force. They even look different.

Their brilliant red tunics, for example - now reserved strictly for full-dress occasions. Traditional boots and britches have also been replaced - by blue trousers and black shoes. And no more spurs. They kept catching on things - such as gas pedals and the like; causing at least one accident - before they were finally banned.

Anyway, the Mounties have long since forseken their stands.

Stands.

They're mounted mainly now on fast cars,

amphibious airplanes, patrol boats and helicopters. And

— alers —

even their legendary dog-sled patrols — have been taken over

Some things never change though. And the Mounties tell us they still - always get their man.

From Pope Paul - at his general weekly audience a warning today that the Devil exists. "He is the enemy number one" - said the Pope; "he is the tempter par excellence - the hidden enemy who sows errors and misfortune in human history - a dark and enemy agent;" in short - the Pope continued - "a live, spiritual, perverted and perverting thing."

The Pontiff also cautioned - that his words should not be treated as "unreal or superstitious." One of the church's greatest needs - said he - is a "defense against that evil which we call the Devil."

Look art, Bill. Don't look back, waybe someone is following you!

## TORREPACHECO

This next - from Torrepacheco, Spain; a story about the oldest woman in Spain's Murcia Province - Senora Gregoria Martinez; who - at age a hundred-and-ten - has just been paid her first visit by a doctor. He treated her for a cold.

Senora Martinez later observing, a bit sadly: "I must be getting old." and A-l-