LBJ News Conference Gets a Double Take

President Johnson's neverending search for new press techniques resulted yesterday in a curious doubleheader news conference,

There was one in his office for the pencil-and-paper set, a 38-minute opener with reporters asking questions after he read several announcements and a bristling statement on the war in Vietnam.

Then the President went to the seldom-used television studio in the East Wing, read the Vietnam statement, and answered three questions that had been asked of him a few minutes before.

It was an unusual day from the outset, with the President even authorizing Deputy White House Press Secretary Robert Fleming to announce the news conference ahead of time. The word went out at 9 a.m. that he would see reporters at

11:30 a.m. in his oval office. Despite press aides' repeated assurances that the traditional televised conference has not been abandoned, Mr. Johnson has shown for months that he prefers less formal settings.

Yesterday's double-header, Fleming explained, was arranged to satisfy television crews. TV. reporters were told that there would not be room for cameras in the President's office, Fleming said, so they were offered a second shot in the East Wing studio—with questions limited to those asked in the first session.

Each of the three network reporters asked one question that had been asked before. Mr. Johnson answered them in approximately the same phrasing he had used earlier for newspaper and magazine reporters. However, he elaborated slightly more on a question about his reaction to polls that show discontent with the Vietnam war.

Samuel Nabrit a teacher and biologist, has been president of Texas Southern University in Houston for 11 years. He previously had been professor of biology at Morehouse College and chairman of the Department of Biology at Atlanta University. From 1956 to 1962, he was a member of the National Science Board and from 1960 to 1961 he was president of the Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools.

Tape, the other AEC appointee, has served on the commission since 1963. He formerly was president of Associated Universities, Inc., the corporation that operates Brookhaven National Laboratory for the AEC.

The new Treasury assistant secretary, Knowlton replaces Merlyn N. Trued, who recently resigned. Knowlton, who for 10 years was with the banking investment firm of White, Weld, and Co. in New York, had been Deputy Assistant Secretary for International Affairs since June, 1965.

Owen succeeds Walt W. Rostow, now a special presidential assistant, as chairman of the State Department's Policy Planning Council. He has been a member of the Council and the staff since 1955.