

from Herb Caen, column:

★ ★ ★

YOUR EYES ONLY: In case you've been puzzling over some of Mr. Nixon's recent moves, here's the explanation, as published exclusively last week in Reno's Nevada State Journal under the headline "Skelton Misses Important Call From President." The story follows, verbatim:

"Comedian Red Skelton missed an important call Monday night because he was on stage in Harrah's Tahoe.

"President Richard Nixon phoned to get Skelton's ideas on his decision to mine North Vietnam's ports and bomb land links with China as the solution to finding peace in Indochina.

"During an interview, Skelton fingered the telegram he sent to the Chief Executive Tuesday. 'I think your decision was and is the right thing to do,' Skelton wrote. 'When the world has grown to accept our offer of benevolence it should also accept our determination to save the human race.'"

I feel privileged to be able to bring you stories like this, stories that not only show the serious side of a great comedian and fine American, but also how the decision - making process works at the highest level. Let us pray.