

News Summary and Index

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1974

The Major Events of the Day

International

Iraq claimed that a frontier clash early yesterday with Iranian forces backed by heavy artillery and armor left 70 Iranians dead and wounded and caused 23 Iraqi casualties. The Iranians, according to the Baghdad radio, were gathering more forces on the border and continuing attacks, while Iranian jet fighters were "crossing deep into Iraqi airspace." [1:3-4.]

Britain's 260,000 coal miners abandoned the coal fields in the first day of a strike that threatens devastating consequences for the national economy. Because it was Sunday, picketing was only sporadic and few incidents of tension or violence were reported. The major impact will come later, as British industry becomes starved for power and materials. [1:4.]

The United States is equipping the Jordanian Army with sophisticated antitank missiles of the sort used by Israel during the October war, reliable sources in Amman said. It is the first time that the United States has provided such weapons to an Arab country. The Soviet Union delivered large supplies of a comparable antitank missile to Egypt and Syria before and after the October fighting. The sources said the Jordanian Army had used the weapon in training. [2:3-6.]

National

American farmers expect to plant the largest corn and wheat crops in history this spring, as well as a soybean crop only slightly smaller than last year's record-breaker. If so, despite a fertilizer shortage and the uncertainties of the fuel shortage, the crops could lead to a leveling off of soaring retail beef prices by late summer, and stabilize pork and poultry prices. [1:6-7.]

Representative Peter W. Rodino, chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, said that the committee members would "be shirking our responsibility" if President Nixon was not personally summoned—if deemed necessary—to answer questions on his conduct of the Presidency. In a television interview, he contended that the House has given his committee the authority to investigate "impeachment in totality" by overwhelmingly voting it broad subpoena powers, and that the vote gave the committee the right to override any future claim of executive privilege by the President. [1:5.]

Most of the Federal housing laws would be rewritten by a \$9-billion omnibus housing and community development bill that the Senate Banking Committee has approved. The bill contains some provisions supported by the Nixon Administration, but others, including one to continue many subsidized housing programs, are sure to be opposed by the Administration. President Nixon has insisted that such programs do not work, and he froze funds for them last year. The bill also rejects the President's revenue-sharing principle. [3:8-1.]

Metropolitan

Service station owners and motorists in New York and New Jersey braced for confusion with the beginning of plans—voluntary here, mandatory in New Jersey—for restricting gasoline purchases to alternate days. The plans differ in significant details but basically provide that motorists with even-numbered license plates get gasoline on even-numbered dates and motorists with odd-numbered license plates get gasoline on odd-numbered dates. [1:8.]

The state is spending more than \$2-million a year for 18 boards, commissions and authorities, most of whose members are political appointees who do little work for the state. An overwhelming majority of these "saddom-show" jobholders maintain full-time private occupations usually law practices—while drawing state salaries, often in the \$30,000-to-\$40,000 range. In interviews with The New York Times, holders of these jobs, the executive department's counterparts to the Legislature's "no-show" positions—defended their work. They noted that despite the levels of salaries, the jobs were part-time by law. [1:1-3.]

Both Mayor Beame and Dr. William J. Roman, the head of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, said they saw nothing in the new transportation program announced last Saturday by President Nixon to indicate that New York would receive enough Federal money to save the 35-cent fare. Both tempered their criticism with the hope that the President would submit legislation to Congress that would enable New York to receive at least \$140-million for operations to help reduce the \$300-million annual transit operating deficit. [3:1.]

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Bright and early

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