

# News Summary and Index

SATURDAY, MARCH 9, 1974

## The Major Events of the Day

### International

Premier Golda Meir of Israel charged that Syria had planned military action earlier this week to recapture the enclave of Syrian territory that Israel seized during the October war. Mrs. Meir said that Israel had immediately asked "foreign governments" to do what they could to avoid a new outbreak of fighting. This was assumed to be an allusion to the United States, which has been in direct contact with Syria, and the Soviet-Union to work out ways to defuse the Syrian front. [1:1.]

President Hafez al-Assad of Syria said that his country would remain at war with Israel until "all the Arab territory is liberated." He spoke at a university rally. [4:3.]

### National

President Nixon proposed in a message to Congress and in a national radio address to lead the cleanup of political campaigns. He recommended more detailed financial disclosures, some limits on what individual contributors could give, a severe curb on the use of cash in campaigns and some rules against "dirty tricks." He seemed to imply, however, that he would veto public campaign financing or over-all ceilings on campaign spending, two of the favored reforms in Congress. [1:8.]

Representative Wilbur D. Mills predicted that a Congressional report next month on President Nixon's income tax payments would increase pressure for him to resign. For that and other reasons, he believes "very strongly" that Mr. Nixon will resign. [1:6-7.] James W. McCord Jr., convicted Watergate conspirator, has accused President Nixon of having "fatally infected" Mr. McCord's trial proceedings early last year by criminally suppressing and concealing evidence of the Watergate cover-up. His assertion was based on what he termed Mr. Nixon's "fantastic admission" during his Wednesday night news conference that John W. Dean 3d told him on March 21, 1973, that hush money payments had been made to the original Watergate defendants. [1:6-7.]

Just weeks before the 1972 Presidential election, and John N. Mitchell, who was then Attorney General, promised finally to talk to John W. Dean 3d, President Nixon's former counsel, in an effort to avoid exposure before

Election Day of a secret \$200,000 campaign contribution, from Robert L. Vesco, a Government witness, testified in Federal District Court in New York. [1:5.]

The nation's unemployment rate held steady at 5.2 per cent of the labor force in February after three months of increases, the Labor Department reported. In a special analysis, the department found that a maximum of 500,000 workers may have lost their jobs directly or indirectly through the energy shortage, mainly in the automobile industry. [1:3-4.]

Cable television companies rushed to wire the cities when the Federal Communications Commission, on March 31, 1972, issued new rules that effectively lifted a long-standing "freeze" on the top 100 television markets, but what many had thought would bring a communications revolution by 1974 has instead turned into a retreat. [1:2-3.]

### Metropolitan

Eight-year-old John Calzadilla, unharmed, was back with his family in Dix Hills, L. I., after being kidnapped Wednesday on his way home from school. He provided officials with details about the four or five persons who had held him for a \$50,000 ransom and who released him Thursday night in New Jersey, when the ransom was paid by his father. [1:2.]

Twelve present and former members of the Police Department, including two lieutenants, were indicted on Federal charges of stealing cash from narcotics dealers, reselling heroin they had seized in an arrest and offering bribes to fellow officers to hinder prosecution of the dealers. [1:3-4.]

The Federal Energy Office administrator here, Gerald J. Turetsky, said he had sufficient evidence to warrant civil and possibly criminal complaints against several large oil companies for allegedly "lying" and "cheating" about gasoline supplies delivered here in the last two months. [1:1.]

Chock full of Nuts took over the Rheingold Breweries from PepsiCo, Inc., with the signing of the acquisition contract at City Hall, with Mayor Beaune present. This appeared to insure an early reopening of the 119-year-old Brooklyn brewery that has been closed since Feb. 1, and it also saved the jobs of most of the brewer's 1,500 employees. [1:8.]

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**Quotation of the Day**  
"I find talking to people that they are tired of the Watergate investigation. But I haven't found anybody yet who is satisfied with the President's tax payments during the four years he has been in office."—Representative Wilbur D. Mills. [1:7.]

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### CORRECTION

A dispatch in The New York Times on Wednesday identifying Americans killed in the recent Paris air crash described Thomas P. Wright as a stockbroker. Mr. Wright was an investment banker and managing director of the Merrill Lynch Brown-Shipley Bank, Ltd., in London.