

News Summary and Index

SATURDAY, MARCH 16, 1974

The Major Events of the Day

International

President Nixon made several important foreign policy statements in a nationally televised question-and-answer session at the Chicago Executives Club. He warned Arab nations not to attach conditions to the expected removal of the oil embargo and said the United States "is not going to be pressured" in its efforts to bring about a disengagement of Israeli and Syrian troops. [1:8.] The President also warned this country's European allies that failure to cooperate with the United States in political and economic fields could lead to a substantial cut in American forces in Europe. [1:6-7.]

National

President Nixon declared that he would not resign because he refused "to be a party to the destruction of the Presidency of the United States." He told more than 1,900 members of the Executive Club of Chicago that "resignation is an easy copout" and that "it might satisfy some of my friendly partisans who would rather not have the problem of Watergate bothering them. [1:1.]

Inside the cavernous grand ballroom of the Conrad Hilton Hotel in Chicago, President Nixon's huge luncheon audience of Chicago business and professional people was friendly and polite. Outside, across Michigan Avenue, more than 300 shouting, sign-carrying demonstrators stood in a cold rain and demanded the President's impeachment, and about 50 counterdemonstrators held up an enormous banner urging the nation to back the President. [1:6-7.]

Daniel Hofgren, a former White House aide, testified that he asked John N. Mitchell if he had a meeting with Robert L. Vesco and was told "you stay away from that." He added "When John Mitchell says 'you stay away from it,' I stay away from it." Mr. Hofgren's testimony in Federal District Court in New York City went to the heart of one of the perjury counts against Mr. Mitchell who had told a grand jury that he "never told Mr. Hofgren to stay away from anything" [1:2.]

The Cost of Living Council exempted the newspaper, broadcasting, advertising and other communications industries from price controls. All were exempted from wage controls as well, the council said, except newspapers, which are currently involved in some important labor negotiations. [1:5.]

The Other News

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Governor Wilson sent to the Legislature his proposal for a \$100-million state transit subsidy that could be used to hold the 35-cent fare for a half-year, and also proposed a \$250-million bond referendum that would finance capital improvements on upstate railroads. The fare subsidy, \$70-million of which would go to New York City, would require municipalities to provide matching amounts. [1:3-4.]

A State Supreme Court justice in Queens, in a highly unusual move, released secret grand jury minutes to a state panel investigating the handling of a \$10-million narcotics case by Supreme Court Justice Albert H. Bosch and by James D. Robertson, former chief assistant district attorney in Queens. One of the questions the panel is asking is: Why was the harshest sentence in the case—described as "one of the largest seizures of narcotics and one of the most important narcotics prosecutions brought in New York City"—only one year against one of the defendants. [1:3-4.]

Clark E. Squire, a 36-year-old black militant and avowed member of the Black Liberation Army was sentenced to life in the Middlesex County Court in New Jersey following his conviction of having murdered Werner Foerster, a state trooper. [3:7-8.]

Quotation of the Day

"It's far better to have the voice of the President of the United States heard from within the Kremlin than on the outside, because those walls are mighty thick, I can tell you. So therefore, let's continue to talk to them so we won't have to fight them."—President Nixon, speaking in Chicago. [1:6.]

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CORRECTION

The New York Times reported incorrectly yesterday that Frank G. Rossetti, the Manhattan Democratic leader, had been called before a grand jury five years ago in an investigation of Carmine G. De Sapio, the former Manhattan Democratic chairman. Actually, Mr. Rossetti appeared as a defense witness at the conspiracy trial of Mr. De Sapio.