

The Major Events of the Day

International

President Pompidou of France died last night at the age of 62. The cause of death was not immediately announced. But for more than a year, there had been ceaseless speculation about his health, causing political uncertainty as he reduced his work schedule and his Government temporized on many major issues. [1:8.]

Lieut. Gen. David Elazar resigned as Israel's chief of staff shortly after an official commission investigating Israeli setbacks at the start of the October war recommended that he and other senior army officers be removed. Issuing an interim report, the commission cleared Premier Golda Meir and Defense Minister Moshe Dayan of responsibility for what was described as Israel's lack of preparation for the war. [1:1.]

Graham A. Martin, the United States Ambassador to South Vietnam, suggested in a confidential cablegram last month to the State Department that Senator Edward M. Kennedy not be given an "honest and detailed answer" to questions he had raised about American policy in Indochina. The cable, addressed to Secretary of State Kissinger, was made public by Senator Kennedy, who expressed "outrage" that an American Ambassador should suggest that members of Congress not be given honest answers to questions of public policy. [1:8.]

Queen Elizabeth 2, crippled and adrift off Bermuda, prepared for the transfer of her 1,630 passengers to a Norwegian cruise ship racing to a rendezvous in mid-ocean. The Elizabeth, bound from New York to St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands, stalled before dawn Monday with a breakdown of her three boilers. She drifted for 36 hours before it was decided to transfer the passengers. [1:2-4.]

National

With the White House moving toward an announcement soon of the appointment of William E. Simon, the Federal Energy administrator, to succeed George P. Shultz as Secretary of the Treasury, a fierce backstairs struggle has developed for the broad economic policy role exercised by Mr. Shultz. It appears, Washington sources said, that Roy L. Ash, the director of the Office of Management and Budget and Secretary of State Kissinger both will get more influence

with Mr. Shultz gone. [1:6-7.]

Enactment of a national health insurance program took a giant step forward as two Congressional leaders introduced a new proposal similar to one proposed by President Nixon two months ago. The new bill was prepared and introduced by Senator Edward M. Kennedy, who scrapped a much more liberal version that he had championed, and Representative Wilbur D. Mills, who had sponsored the Nixon version. [1:5.]

An underground newspaper in San Francisco, the biweekly Phoenix, said it had received half of Patricia Hearst's driver's license, and a message purporting to be from her kidnappers saying that the exact place and time of her release would be disclosed in 72 hours. [1:1.]

In a stunning courtroom tableau, F. Donald Nixon, a brother of the President, took the witness stand at the Mitchell-Stans trial to testify that he was asked to warn the President that a secret \$200,000 cash contribution to his re-election campaign might be exposed before Election Day. He refused to pass on the warning, Mr. Nixon said, because "I have never taken anything to him, nor have I used that office for any purpose for myself or for any client or any people I work for." [1:2-3.]

Metropolitan

The Consolidated Edison Company, citing difficulties in raising capital, said it was cutting \$40-million from its construction program and postponing completion of its Astoria, Queens, plant. The capital cutback was long urged by conservationists and public officials who said that the utility should respond to electrical-consumption reductions made by its customers during the energy crisis. [1:2-3.]

Mayor Beame said that increased taxes were inevitable to balance his projected \$12.9-billion budget for 1974-75. Meanwhile, the city considered wiping out its rainy-day fund and selling budget notes to erase a \$322-million current deficit. [1:4.]

Frank S. Hogan, the shy, courteous lawyer who became a legend in his 32 years as Manhattan's District Attorney, died at St. Luke's Hospital. He was 72 years old. He had had a stroke and had undergone surgery for the removal of a lung tumor last summer. He resigned as District Attorney last Dec. 26. [1:4-6.]

The Other News

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Quotation of the Day

"It's been a fantastic free trip to nowhere, courtesy of Curand"—John Schmitt, the New York Jets football center, aboard the QE2. [30:1.]

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Corrections

It was reported erroneously in The New York Times on March 19 that the Montana Legislature had approved a resolution endorsing the launching of Minuteman missiles from that state. The Montana House of Representatives voted down a resolution expressing opposition to the launchings, but took no affirmative action.

In a news article and an editorial on the transit settlement, it was incorrectly reported yesterday that the annual pay of porters and car cleaners was \$11,833 and the new base after the first year was \$13,013. The figures should have been \$10,064 and \$11,472 after the first year.