

News Summary and Index

NYTimes

TUESDAY, APRIL 9, 1974

APR 9 1974

The Major Events of the Day

International

President Nixon's talks with world leaders and his activities on the streets of Paris this weekend brought sharp criticism in France, as well as some grudging acknowledgment of continuing United States power. A letter circulated to journalists in Paris by a high official of the French Ministry said that Mr. Nixon had "shamelessly substituted a public campaign for the mourning of an entire nation, introducing an atmosphere of loud feverishness, the discourtesy of which is equaled only by its clumsiness." [1:2-4.]

Prime Minister Wilson of Britain went before the House of Commons in an effort to calm a raging political controversy over property transactions of his private secretary and her family. Mr. Wilson said that Mrs. Marcia Williams, his secretary for 18 years, was not guilty of any wrongdoing, attacked newspapers for "sensationalizing" the property transactions, and denied that he himself had been involved in any way. It was one of his most delicate moments since he came to power five weeks ago. [1:3-4.]

National

President Nixon signed a bill that will increase the minimum wage for millions of Americans by stages from the present \$1.60 to \$2.30 an hour. Mr. Nixon, who had vetoed similar legislation last year, said that he had "some reservations" about this year's bill, that "raising the minimum wage is now a matter of justice that can no longer be fairly delayed." For most workers the initial increase to \$2 an hour will be made next month. [1:8.]

Senator Lowell P. Weicker Jr., in a sequel to the Senate Watergate hearings, made public documents showing that the White House had frequent access to confidential Internal Revenue Service files on political friends and foes of President Nixon. He told three Senate subcommittees that were holding joint hearings on Government surveillance activities that "the I.R.S. was acting like a public lending library for the White House." [1:6-7.]

The impeachment inquiry staff of the House Judiciary Committee is investigating whether fraud may have been involved in President Nixon's handling of his personal income taxes. John M. Doar, the staff's chief counsel, told committee members that the ques-

tion of fraud was clearly part of their investigation. He said Internal Revenue Service records dealing with the President's tax matters had been requested along with other tax information. Several committee members have said they would regard any evidence of criminal fraud in the returns as potential grounds for impeachment. [1:5.]

The Bankers Trust Company raised its prime rate on loans to corporations to 10 per cent and a large New Jersey bank, the Peoples Trust Company, did the same. The basic lending rate had been this high once before—briefly last fall—but this time there was some feeling in financial circles that it might go even higher unless it was arrested by political considerations. [1:2.] Stock prices declined following the announcement of the higher prime rate. The Dow-Jones industrial average fell 7.58 points and closed at its lowest level since mid-February. [5:7.]

The panic buying of corn and wheat that began in late February has ended and prices of these essential grains have been falling. For the consumer, this indicates another roller-coaster effect on retail beef prices as well as a faint hope that pork prices would remain stable and poultry prices would continue to drift downward in the next few months. [1:1-2.]

Metropolitan

Alfred Kleinfeld, the new regional head of the Federal Energy Office backed away from his predecessor's charges that some oil company had "lied" and "cheated" and engaged in illegal price manipulations to take advantage of the energy crisis. Mr. Kleinfeld was appointed acting regional administrator of the Energy Office, succeeding Gerald J. Turetsky, who resigned last week. [1:1.]

A pioneering system of school accountability, which would provide a yardstick for judging the educational effectiveness of the city's 950 public schools, will be introduced here next fall, School Chancellor Irving Anker said. [1:6-7.]

Lawyers for the Animal Medical Center of New York filed a \$1,775,000 suit in Federal District Court in Trenton against Doris Duke, charging that "armed members of Miss Duke's private police department used force, threats and other illegal and unlawful acts" in an effort to curtail major animal-research projects at Duke Farms in Hillsborough Township in New Jersey. [3:1-2.]

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Quotation of the Day

"The children were wonderful, no panic—they couldn't get away fast enough to eat hot dogs."—Cardinal Cooke, after he, four other adults and 10 deaf children, were freed from a stalled elevator. [1:8.]

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