

News Summary and Index

THURSDAY, APRIL 18, 1974

NYTimes The Major Events of the Day Apr 18 1974

International

Israeli bulldozers were at work on the southwestern upper flank of Mount Hermon in the Golan Heights as Syrian earth-moving equipment pushed an opposing track up the strategic mountain's eastern slopes. Both sides consider the mountain a crucial bargaining card in the forthcoming talks on a separation of forces. While Israel claimed an initial victory by establishing a small outpost at the summit, the Syrians seem determined to seize it. [1:1.]

In Jerusalem, Maj. Gen. Ariel Sharon, a hero of the October war and an opposition member of Parliament, charged that the Israeli defense establishment had been negligent in not thwarting an Arab raid that killed 18 Israelis last week. [18:1-4.]

President Anwar el-Sadat of Egypt has reaffirmed his intention of working through the United States in seeking a settlement of the Middle East conflict and has made it clear that in his opinion the Soviet Union has been relegated to a secondary diplomatic role. In remarks reported in Egyptian newspapers, Mr. Sadat revealed that he had come close to renouncing the Soviet-Egyptian friendship treaty because of his disenchantment with Moscow. [1:4.]

National

President Nixon named William E. Simon to succeed George P. Shultz as Secretary of the Treasury, but not as over-all director of economic policy for the Administration. Instead, a Presidential spokesman said, Mr. Nixon will succeed Mr. Shultz as chairman of the Council on Economic Policy and will be more active in economic affairs. [1:8.]

Republican and Democratic politicians agreed that the Watergate scandals contributed substantially to the loss of a usually Republican seat in Michigan's Eighth Congressional District. But though there was wide agreement that the victory by the Democrat, J. Bob Traxler, was a sign of President Nixon's political weakness, there were also signs that President Nixon's campaign trip to the district saved the Republican, James M. Sparling Jr., from a more severe loss than the 3,000-vote final margin. [1:6-7.]

The Securities and Exchange Commission is reportedly considering possible fraud charges growing out of the financial collapse of the Penn Central railroad nearly four

years ago. Government sources said action in the case was imminent, but did not specify what companies or individuals might be charged in the case. [1:5.]

Former Commerce Secretary Maurice H. Stans took the witness stand in his own defense and swore that the reason he kept Robert L. Vesco's \$200,000 cash contribution to the Nixon re-election campaign secret was Mr. Vesco's constitutional right of privacy. Mr. Stans denied that the money was a payoff or that there was any quid pro quo arrangement with Mr. Vesco, who has been accused of making the contribution in return for quashing a Federal investigation into his financial dealings. [1:5-7.]

The American Express Company said it had agreed to allow merchants honoring its credit cards to offer discounts to customers who pay cash for purchases. Claiming a "tremendous victory," Consumers Union said it would drop an antitrust suit against American Express as a result of the company's action. [1:3-4.]

Attorney General William B. Saxbe said he did not regard Patricia Hearst as a "reluctant participant" in Monday's San Francisco bank robbery, but a "fugitive" who is a part of a group of "common criminals." In his weekly news briefing, Mr. Saxbe said he was not relaying his personal view to the Federal Bureau of Investigation—which said it was proceeding on the possibility that Miss Hearst had been forced to cooperate in the robbery. [1:8.]

The Supreme Court ruled that parents of three slain Kent State students may sue the Governor of Ohio and National Guard officers for damages growing out of the 1970 campus protests. The Court, which did not pass on the merits of such a damage suit, overruled two lower courts in holding that state officials are not immune from damage suits that are based on charges of a violation of civil rights. [1:1-3.]

Metropolitan

Asserting that antidrug information campaigns have made drugs more tempting than forbidding to young people, a state commission recommended the dismantling of the \$23-million drug-abuse programs for young people. Instead, the Temporary State Commission to Study the Drug Laws suggested that the funds be spent on "basic problems of scholastic achievement." [1:2-3.]

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