

The Major Events of the Day

Mitchell and Stans

John N. Mitchell and Maurice H. Stans were acquitted in New York of all charges in their criminal conspiracy case, ending the first trial of former Cabinet officials since the aftermath of the Teapot Dome scandal in the nineteen-twenties. A jury of nine men and three women deliberated 26 hours over a period of four days. [1:8.]

The jurors voted to acquit the two former Cabinet officers of all criminal charges because, they said, they could not believe the testimony of crucial Government witnesses. Again and again, the jurors, when speaking about testimony of those witnesses after the verdict was announced used the words "incredible" or "unbelievable." [1:4-7.]

The acquittal verdict heartened the White House, virtually eliminating the key issue in the House impeachment inquiry and underscored the importance of tape recordings in other criminal and impeachment proceedings related to Watergate. The reaction in the White House, which is apparently preparing a counteroffensive against impeachment proceedings, was probably understated. [1:5-7.]

The acquittal of Mr. Mitchell and Mr. Stans does not end their legal problems. Mr. Mitchell has been indicted in Washington on six counts in the Watergate conspiracy case, and he is said to be a target of investigation in two other cases being prepared by the special Watergate prosecutor. Mr. Stans's problems are considerably less severe, but the special prosecutor reportedly is investigating whether he solicited illegal corporate contributions to President Nixon's re-election campaign. [3:1-2.]

International

Secretary of State Kissinger arrived in Geneva on his way to the Middle East and talked with Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei A. Gromyko, hoping to obtain Soviet help in his efforts to persuade Israel and Syria to compromise on a troop separation agreement in the Golan Heights. [1:4.]

Israel and Syrian forces continued to spar with small-scale air strikes and sporadic shelling along their front lines. With Mr. Kissinger on way to the Middle East, many Israelis believed that Syria might attempt a more serious military attack to make any future agreement seem to be the result of Syrian initiative. But there was no sign of

this, and the use of firepower on both sides was of little military importance. [1:1.]

Mario Soares, the leader of Portugal's Socialist party and an opponent of the authoritarian Government that was overthrown last Thursday, returned to Lisbon from five years of exile in Paris. He was welcomed by an exuberant crowd and then he went to see Gen. Antonio de Spínola, the head of the military junta, who is expected to lead the provisional government that was promised in the next three weeks. [1:4.]

For 14 years, African rebels in the malaria-ridden jungle territory of Portuguese Guinea have been carrying on an armed struggle against Portuguese rule. They claim control over nearly three-fourths of the territory, which is about twice the size of New Jersey, and over more than half the population of 600,000 farmers, herdsmen and fishermen. The rebels in Portugal's two other much larger African territories—Angola and Mozambique—make no such claims. [1:2-3.]

National

Recent interviews with workers around the country indicate that most of them are worried about what the impact of removal of wage and price controls, due to expire at midnight tomorrow, will have on the already skyrocketing cost of living. Many of them can look forward to increases in wages and fringe benefits negotiated through collective bargaining this year, and unions, freed from the controls, are expected to push hard for substantial contract improvements. [1:1-2.]

President Nixon, who was at Camp David preparing to step up his campaign against impeachment, is directing his appeal increasingly to the minority conservative bloc in the Senate. The strategy is being pursued on two levels—first, on policy and legislative action, and second, on public appearances and speeches across the country. [1:8-4-6.]

Metropolitan

With priests, ministers and rabbis in the vanguard, a crowd estimated by the police at more than 100,000 paraded down Fifth Avenue in demonstration of their solidarity with Soviet Jews denied the right to emigrate to Israel. The parade reached a climax when the peaceful procession of men, women and children filled Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza near the United Nations. [1:1.]

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"The truth will out. We got to the jury system, and that always works. Our fate was resting with a very fine jury—a cross section of America."—John N. Mitchell.
"My heart stopped for 30 seconds. I feel reborn."
—Maurice H. Stans. [1:8.]

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