

The Major Events of the Day

The White House Tapes

The transcripts of the recordings of President Nixon's Watergate conversations show that Mr. Nixon never discouraged the payment of hush money to one of the Watergate conspirators. They depict Mr. Nixon as having been primarily interested early last year in keeping the facts of the Watergate case from becoming public, but as having been indecisive on the best way of accomplishing it. [1:8.]

Democrats on the House Judiciary Committee are weighing a formal move to cite President Nixon for "noncompliance" with the committee's April 11 subpoena of White House tape recordings. But most Republicans on the panel are balking at the legal challenge to the President, and a number of them expressed qualified acceptance of the White House substitution of 1,308 pages of edited transcripts for the subpoenaed tapes. [1:7.]

The White House declared that President Nixon was never criminally liable in the Watergate cover-up attempt despite statements he made in conversations with key figures in the scandal. The White House made the declaration in a 50-page legal argument accompanying its release of the edited transcripts. [1:7-8.]

"Blemishes and all," President Nixon said, and he warned of ambiguities, embarrassments and brutal candor in the 1,308 pages that provide perhaps the closest look outsiders have ever had of a President in private and certainly of the private Richard M. Nixon. [1:4-6.]

President Nixon will refuse to yield tapes and documents sought by the Watergate special prosecutor. The President's Watergate lawyer, James D. St. Clair, told newsmen that he would move to quash the prosecutor's subpoena, which was authorized April 19. [1:3.]

International

The United States proposed a \$4-billion assistance program for the most economically distressed countries. The wide-ranging proposal was submitted to the United Nations in a special session of the General Assembly on raw materials and development. It would have the industrialized countries and affluent oil-producers provide emergency help over the next year and a half in the form of grants and loans, but

also would include commodity assistance, such as food, oil and fertilizer. [1:1-2.]

Secretary of State Kissinger arrived in Alexandria, Egypt, and immediately conferred with President Anwar el-Sadat as part of an effort to build broad support for a compromise troop separation agreement between Israel and Syria. Earlier in the day, he completed talks with President Houari Boumediene of Algeria, and as he left, he told newsmen that he had "increased hope" for the success of the talks. [1:1-2.]

Italy, in an unexpected and onerous move, imposed severe restrictions on all imports of manufactured goods. The measure, aimed at fighting inflation and bolstering the sagging lira, caused consternation among Italy's partners in the European Economic Community, who pleaded with the Government to at least postpone the decision. [1:3.]

National

Farm prices declined 6 per cent in the month ended April 15, the second consecutive monthly decrease, holding out the hope for some relief for shoppers at supermarket counters. The Farm Price Index at 183, was 20 points, or about 10 per cent, below the peak reached in February and 11 points below the March level. At that level, the prices received by farmers for their commodities was still 26 points above the level of 1973, but the prices they had to pay for goods and services almost wiped out the improvement. Declines in meats and grains accounted for most of the setback. [1:1-2.]

Metropolitan

The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey has abandoned its opposition to repealing a 12-year-old bond covenant that restricts its mass transportation capability. Dr. William J. Roman, the authority's new chairman, said. He stated his support for repeal legislation in Trenton, where ceremonies were held as Governor Byrne signed legislation, repealing the state's 1962 bond covenant. [45:1-2.]

The State Senate approved an even more limited version of the bill restoring the death penalty in New York State than that passed last week by the Assembly. It voted 40 to 18 to make mandatory the penalty in all cases of intentional murder of a police or correctional officer while on duty. [1:1.]

The Other News

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Quotation of the Day

"All of us are dedicated to moving ahead in the mass transit area. There is no division among us." — Dr. William J. Roman, chairman of the Port Authority, in explaining that agency's reversal on repeal of the 1962 bond covenant. [45:1.]

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CORRECTION
The address of one of the exhibition halls for Art Expo 74 was incorrectly given in The New York Times yesterday. The correct address is 1441 Broadway, near 40th Street.