

News Summary and Index

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The Major Events of the Day

International
Administration officials said the United States and the Soviet Union had begun negotiations on a treaty for a limited ban on underground nuclear testing—a project that has been sporadically discussed since 1958. Officials said it was hoped to have a treaty ready for signing during President Nixon's planned visit to the Soviet Union, probably at the end of June. [1:5.]

Secretary of State Kissinger met with Israeli leaders in Jerusalem for talks aimed at bringing about an Israeli-Syrian troop separation agreement. Mr. Kissinger, who will fly to Damascus today for talks with Syrian leaders, urged the Israelis to make the first moves toward a compromise on the issue but they indicated they would not be rushed into changing their proposals, especially in light of the stepped up fighting on the Golan Heights. [1:2-3.]

Hundreds of union leaders were arrested in India in a Government move to head off a rail strike threatened for Monday that could cripple the Indian economy. [1:2.]

National
The House Judiciary Committee voted overwhelmingly to give President Nixon's attorney, James D. St. Clair, wide latitude in questioning witnesses at the committee's impeachment hearings. The committee also voted to allow live television coverage of the hearings, which are expected to begin later this month. [1:8.]

Investigators for the House Judiciary Committee have apparently constructed a chain of circumstantial evidence linking President Nixon's 1971 decision to increase Government milk price supports to a pledge by dairy industry groups to give \$2-million to the President's re-election campaign. The chain was outlined in one of several documents submitted to the White House to justify the committee request for 141 White House tapes. [1:7; Text, P. 28.]

The original Watergate prosecutors reportedly broke off all contact with their superiors in the Justice Department in April, 1973, after Assistant Attorney General Henry E. Petersen refused their demands that he end his close association with President Nixon. Authoritative sources said the break came after Mr. Petersen refused to heed warnings that he would be a witness

against John W. Dean 3d in any Watergate cover-up trials and, thus, should not continue to advise the President. [1:6-7.]

Of the hundreds of gaps in the edited White House transcripts, none seems so crucial as the omission of more than five hours of Presidential conversations on April 15, 1973, the day the White House says the tape ran out. Thus there is an incomplete record of the President's first talk with the Watergate prosecutor. [1:7-4-6; Text, P. 17.]

Gen. Alexander M. Haig Jr., the President's chief of staff, reportedly refused to answer questions before a closed session of the Senate Watergate committee. Senate sources said General Haig produced a letter from the President invoking both executive privilege and the attorney-client privilege in ordering him not to answer questions, which focused on a \$100,000 gift from Howard R. Hughes to C. G. Rebozo. [1:7-8.]

The Maryland Court of Appeals ordered former Vice President Agnew disbarred from legal practice in Maryland, citing his non-compliance on a charge of tax evasion. [1:6-7.]

The Securities and Exchange Commission filed a civil complaint against the Penn Central Company and various subsidiaries, officers and directors, charging them with fraud in connection with the 1970 financial collapse of the railroad. [1:1.]

Prices of steel, copper, brass, chemicals and other basic materials were increased on the second day after the end of most wage-price controls. But while prices of some airplanes and air-conditioners were raised, the maker of Hormel meat products announced a price cut of 7 to 14 per cent, including a 7-cent reduction in the cost of a can of Spam. [1:4.]

Metropolitan

A two-year study by the New York research staff of the National Urban League has found widespread racial bias in the Coast Guard. Warning of a potentially explosive situation, the report urges better internal communication and greater opportunities for advancement of members of minority groups. [1:1-2.]

The head of the Lee Myles franchise chain of auto transmission-repair shops and the company's former operations manager were arrested here and charged with possession of 180 stolen automobile engines and transmissions from late-model cars. [1:3-6.]

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