

News Summary and Index

NYTimes THURSDAY, AUGUST 29, 1974 AUG 29 1974

The Major Events of the Day

International

President Ford said that any United States move to improve relations with Cuba would be taken in concert with the Organization of American States. He said it was up to Cuba to change her policy first. His reply to a question at his first formal Presidential news conference came as moves were under way in the O.A.S. to lift its 1974 embargo on trade and diplomatic relations with the Castro regime in Cuba. [1:4.]

Jubilant South Vietnamese officials announced that the first traces of oil had been discovered, 190 miles south of Saigon's coastal resort city of Vung Tau. It was the first exploratory hole of uncertain potential, drilled by a joint venture of Shell and Cities Service. Three other concerns hold exploration rights in a vast area off the coast and are expected to start drilling soon. [1:1.]

A Moscow announcement said abruptly without explanation that the two-man spaceship Soyuz had landed safely. A link-up with the orbital station Salyut had been expected. Western scientific observers concluded that the spacecraft's docking mechanism might have failed, or that Salyut's condition may have deteriorated seriously since it was orbited last June. [1:1-2.]

The 83-year-old father-in-law of President Luis Echeverria Alvarez of Mexico has been kidnapped, according to the police in Guadalajara. They said that four armed bandits had intercepted the car of J. Guadalupe Zuno Hernandez, beaten off his chauffeur and taken him away in another vehicle. It brings a test for the President's policy of not negotiating with kidnapers. [1:3.]

National

President Ford agreed with the view that former President Richard M. Nixon had been punished enough for the Watergate scandals. He said that until any legal process was undertaken, it would be unlimely to commit himself on protection from prosecution or a pardon. At his first Presidential news conference, he said that Leon Jaworski, the special prosecutor, had the responsibility for acting as he saw fit against "any and all individuals." [1:8; Text, P. 20.]

President Ford ruled out the reimposition of wage and price controls in combating inflation. At his press conference he said he would consider a massive public employ-

ment program, responding "with compassion and action" if necessary. Meanwhile he urged Federal and individual belt-tightening as under President Nixon. [1:5.]

Nelson A. Rockefeller, the Vice President-designate, met in Washington with Republican party chairmen from 12 of 13 Southern states. He said as he emerged that it had been "very friendly." Clark Reed of Mississippi, chairman of the group, added that "we expect him to be down there more than the rest of the country." He said he thought Rockefeller could do much to erase the image of the "bad, rich Yankee" and help reconcile the North and the South. [2:1.]

Chief Justice Warren E. Burger denied the request of John D. Ehrlichman that the Watergate conspiracy trial be postponed until next year. The move virtually assured that the trial will open on schedule in Washington on Sept. 30. [19:1.]

Metropolitan

The city is negotiating to buy the bankrupt Penn Central Railroad's 100-acre Mott Haven Yard in the South Bronx for conversion to an industrial park, at a price in the area of \$10-million to \$12-million. Senator Jacob K. Javits, in whose office here public and private agencies and legislators have met several times on the subject, said he wanted to make the neighborhood "my pet project and bring it the kind of self-help effort that Senator Bobby Kennedy got started in Bedford-Stuyvesant." [1:2-3.]

The average price of a one-pound, six-ounce loaf of white bread in the metropolitan area rose last week to 60 cents, compared with 49 cents a year ago. This helped send food prices here last week to a record high for the second consecutive week, according to the city's Department of Consumer Affairs. Its 38-item Market Basket rose in price from \$61.34 to \$61.40, compared with \$54.38 for the same foods twelve months ago. [1:8.]

Landlords are abandoning about 300 buildings a month in the city, for a loss of some 36,000 apartments a year, according to Roger Starr, the Housing and Development Administrator. He based the estimate on Fire Department surveys. He said the landlords quit because they were losing money or felt that racial and demographic changes hurt prospects for profits. [3:3-3:6.]

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Quotation of the Day

"In this situation, I am the final authority. There have been no charges made. There has been no action by the court. There's been no action by any jury. And until any legal process has been undertaken, I think it's unwise and untimely for me to make any commitment."—President Ford, asked if he would pardon former President Nixon. [1:8.]

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