

## The Major Events of the Day

### International

The Arab League set Oct. 26 as the date for an Arab summit conference in Morocco to work out a joint Arab strategy for the next phase of Middle East peace talks. Representatives of 20 Arab delegations in Cairo, most of them headed by foreign ministers, also took up a Palestinian request to put the question of the rights of Palestinians in a separate item on the agenda of the forthcoming session of the General Assembly of the United Nations. [1:1.]

Italy's Communist party offered to cooperate with the Government to save the country from social and economic disaster. The offer was made in an editorial in the party newspaper L'Unita, which was signed by Carlo Galluzzi, a party official and a deputy chairman of the foreign affairs committee of the Chamber of Deputies. He said that progress in the Soviet-America détente had laid "specters of anti-Communist crusades" to rest and made it possible for his party to go to the Government's aid. The Communist party has been barred from participating in the Italian government since 1947. [1:2-3.]

### National

Secretary of Labor Peter J. Brennan said in a television interview that his department had prepared a series of gradually rising payments to municipalities to help them create jobs if the nation's jobless rate increased. He said that "public service employment"—amounting to about 800,000 new jobs—would not be "triggered" until the national unemployment rate reached "around 7 per cent." It is now 5.3 per cent of the country's total labor force. His department administers the relatively small existing programs of employment aid for state and local governments. [1:8.]

Ben Wattenberg, the theoretician of the Democratic center, said that when Richard M. Nixon resigned as President, "the left—a great political party in shambles—the Democratic party." His irony has a sound basis. Almost at the same time that Mr. Nixon was stepping down and President Ford was stepping up, the Democrats were tearing at themselves again. Another in the series of the party's devastating quarrels occurred at a meeting in Kansas City, Mo.

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### Metropolitan

An epidemic of suspicious fires swept through some of the city's slum areas this summer, destroying or damaging hundreds of tenements in the South Bronx, where there were most numerous, nearly 400 blazes that fire marshals believe were deliberately set, erupted since May, almost twice as many during the same period last year. There were also about 240 suspicious fires in Manhattan, mostly in the Lower East Side. Fire Department officials said that evidence indicated that many of the fires had been set to drive out tenants so buildings could be stripped of plumbing fixtures and other hardware. [1:5.]

Grading practices in the City University's 18 undergraduate colleges vary so widely that whether a student graduates with honors, or even graduates at all, may depend as much on which campus he attends as on his ability. This aspect of the City University, often discussed by students but rarely acknowledged by administrators, has been detailed in a college-by-college, course-by-course report on grade distribution in the university, which has an enrollment of 260,000 students. [1:6-7.]

Hundreds of Puerto Ricans hurled rocks and bottles and fought a gunnot-punctuated battle with club-swinging policemen as a Labor Day festival in Branch Brook Park in Newark turned into a riot. The Newark Police Department mobilized its entire 1,500-member force when the fighting spilled into the streets of north Newark. [1:4.]

New York has been a summer festival in terms of box-office receipts from legitimate theaters in the Times Square area to Lincoln Center's ballet and opera. [1:6-8.]

## Quotation of the Day

"I am confident that the men and women of the American labor movement know that the struggle against inflation is a joint venture of all segments of the American people—and that they will do their part."  
—President Ford. [1:8.]

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