News Summary and Index

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 1974

The Major Events of the Day

International

Most of the major petroleum-exporting countries agreed to raise their taxes almost 5 per cent on oil produced and sold by foreign countries. Saudi Arabia, however, the world's largest exporter, refused to apply the tax increase adopted by all the other members of the 13-nation Organization of Petroleum Exporting Companies at their meeting in Vienna, until she completes negotiations with her foreign partners in the Arabian American Oil Company, the Saudi Arabian Minister of Petroleum said. Saudi Arabia is trying to increase its ownership share in the company from 60 per cent to 100 per cent. A key issue in the negotiations is the price that her American partners will have to pay for Saudi oil in the future if the Government acquires full ownership of the company. [1:8.]

Belgium, the Netherlands, Denmark and Norway are seeking replacements for their aging fighter planes and the United States and France are competing to provide them in a potentially huge, global contract. Defense Secretary James R. Schlesinger spent the day trying to prevail on the defense ministers of the four countries to buy American planes. The Pentagon greeted the ministers with full military honors when they arrived in Washington for talks. [1:1-4.]

Three armed Japanese took over the French Embassy in the Hague and threatened to kill the Ambassador and eight other hostages unless a comrade, a member of the Japanese Red Army, a terrorist organization, was released from prison in France. Reports from Paris said that the prisoner was taken from his cell late last night and rushed to a nearby military airport where a plane left for the Hague. [1:4-5.]

National

Business and trade association leaders attending a conference on food-price inflation in Chicago gave strong support to the Ford Administration's advocacy of budget austerity and monetary restraint. Dissent from this and many other majority views, however, came from a vocal minority that included consumer representatives, a few farm and labor leaders and some economists. [1:6-7.]

The Federal Reserve Board announced that industrial production—the key indicator of economic activity that measures the output of factories and mines—had declined 0.4 per cent in August. This was the index's first significant decline since the energy shortage of last winter and spring. The August decline put the index almost 2 per cent below the peak it reached in October, 1973, before the Arab oil embargo. [1:7.]

Spokesmen for President Ford declined for the sixth consecutive day to say specifically how reports of former President Nixon's poor health figured in the President's decision to pardon Mr. Nixon only a few days after he indicated he would await legal moves before making a decision. A member of Congress, who visited President Ford this week quoted him as saying that he pardoned Mr. Nixon because Mr. Nixon "would go off the deep end." [1:5.]

Former President Nixon's physician, Air Force Major Gen. Walter Tkach, said that Mr. Nixon had developed a new blood clot and an attack of painful phlebitis in his left leg. [1:6.]

A political associate said that President Ford had told him he would dismiss James Keogh, who was a campaign aide and speech-writing supervisor for President Nixon, from his job as director of the United States Information Agency. Mr. Keogh reportedly aroused the animosity of Democratic members of Congress who believed he penalized employes he regarded as unfriendly to Mr. Nixon, especially in coverage of the Watergate scandal. Mr. Keogh said he had not heard of the report. [1:4.]

Metropolitan

A 26-year-old former convict and drug addict who has been charged with the murder and robbery of a 59-year-old widow in her apartment on West 77th Street Thursday morning, has, the District Attorney's office said, "unequivocally" implicated himself in 11 murders of women on the West Side over the last two years. Six of the women were residents of the same hotel on West 77th Street. The suspect, identified as Calvin Jackson, also lived in the hotel, the Park Plaza. [1:1-3.]

Governor Wilson told New York City policemen that abolition of the state's death penalty was a mistake. Speaking at the annual convention of the Patrolmen's Benevolent Association in Tannersville, N.Y., the Governor said he had "pushed for and got the [new] death penalty that applies to the killing of policemen." The audience cheered the Governor. [22:5.]

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Quotation of the Day

"I have found the former President to be suffering from severe physical strain and physical fatigue, but he is mentally alert and has been working in his office or at home each day."—Dr. Walter Tkach, Mr. Nixon's personal physician. [1:6.]

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