

News Summary and Index

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The Major Events of the Day

International

It was announced in Tokyo, after Secretary of State Kissinger had arrived from Shanghai, that President Ford would visit China next year. An American official said the trip would be made in the latter half of the year, following the scheduled visit to Washington of Leonid I. Brezhnev. [Page 1, Column 4.]

Major grain-exporting nations met in Rome to work out details for an emergency food-aid plan that aims to get \$2-billion worth of food grains shipped over the next seven or eight months to South Asia and Africa to help prevent widespread starvation and malnutrition. The conference was sponsored by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, whose secretary general, Kaddake H. Boemba, said there was "considerable progress in recognizing the problem, in getting countries to cooperate in helping assure that supplies are available and in exploring the financial aspects." [1:5-7.]

Iran is believed to have acquired a substantial amount of the shares of the prosperous Daimler-Benz Company of West Germany, manufacturer of the Mercedes-Benz automobiles and trucks. A spokesman for the West German Economics Ministry said he did not know which country had bought the shares, but said it was in "the Middle East." A spokesman for the Iranian Embassy in Bonn said he knew nothing about the purchase, but said "by Monday, we hope everything will be perfectly clear." [1:2-3.]

In an historic breakthrough for a Roman Catholic country, France's National Assembly voted, by a clear margin, to legalize abortion during the first ten weeks of pregnancy. The vote overturned an anti-abortion law dating from 1920. [1:4.]

National

A court-appointed panel of three physicians told Federal Judge John J. Sirica that former President Nixon would not be physically able to testify at the Watergate cover-up trial before Feb. 16 and that he would not be able to testify by deposition until Jan. 6. Their opinions, the doctors said, were "subject to modifications by unknown future medical developments," and were conditioned on Mr. Nixon's continued recovery at the present "anticipated rate." [1:8.]

President Ford, acting on the first recommendations from a nine-member clemency

The Other News

International

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Turkey's Premier resigns after 12 days. Page 3
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The Agriculture Department's Crop Reporting Board said that prices farmers receive for the raw agricultural products fell 1.5 per cent from Oct. 15 to Nov. 15 following a 4 per cent increase the month before. Lower prices for corn, cattle, soybeans, oranges and upland cotton were responsible for the decrease. Higher prices for milk and tomatoes partly offset the decline. [1:3.]

Secretary of Agriculture Earl L. Butz, under orders from President Ford, apologized for telling an anecdote about Pope Paul VI's position on birth control. The anecdote was told in a mock Italian accent at a breakfast with newsmen. "I sincerely apologize for any part I played in it," Mr. Butz said. His apology was made public after he had been rebuked by President Ford at a private meeting. [1:5.]

H. L. Hunt, the oilman who was reputedly one of the world's richest men, as well as a militant anti-Communist and ultraconservative, died at the Baylor University Medical Center in Dallas at the age of 85. [1:2-3.]

Metropolitan

The recession has given a new luster to armed forces in the New York, New Jersey and Connecticut area. Recruiters only a few months ago had a hard time attracting applicants. The turnout at enlistment booths and Civil Service examinations is being led by recent high school and college graduates, and in some places has reached levels not seen since the Depression. Enlistment in the armed forces and applications for Civil Service jobs are highest in areas which jobs are scarcest. [1:2-3.]

More than two million people a year enroll in private vocational schools that offer applicants better jobs and higher pay in fields like tractor-trailer driving, computer programming and plant security. However, cases filed by agencies such as the Federal Trade Commission and the New York City Department of Consumer Affairs indicate that too often that some of the schools misrepresented the job opportunities. [1:1.]

Quotation of the Day

"Don't overdo the 'Ho, ho, ho!' bit. Be jolly with taste."—Col. Walter Nash of the Volunteers of America, instructing sidewalk Santa Clauses. [49:2.]

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