

The Major Events of the Day

International

France has signed a contract to sell \$800-million in arms to Saudi Arabia. The Saudi Defense Minister, Prince Sultan ibn Abdul Aziz, was quoted in Lebanese newspapers as having said that France would provide anti-aircraft missiles and antitank weapons and would strengthen his country's tank force. The Defense Minister was further quoted as having said his Government was confident of purchasing additional weapons from the United States "with no strings attached." [Page 1, Columns 5-6.]

A Dutch charter aircraft carrying 182 Moslem pilgrims from Indonesia to Jidda in Saudi Arabia crashed and burned as it was preparing to land at Colombo in Sri Lanka. The owners, Marthair, said there were no immediate indication whether there were any survivors. Seven of the DC-8's crew were Dutch and two stewardesses were from Indonesia. [10:1-2.]

National

The Democratic Caucus in the House of Representatives continued its procedural reforms. It further undercut the seniority system by barring the chairman of a major committee from heading another full committee, select committee or joint Senate House committee. He also bolstered the Speaker's power. [1:8.]

The House Democratic leadership got wind of discussion among other members of the Ways and Means Committee following the hospitalization of its chairman, Wilbur D. Mills, that seemed to be ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~process~~ ~~of~~ ~~being~~ ~~backed~~ ~~them-~~ ~~selves~~ ~~into~~ ~~their~~ ~~strong~~ ~~positions~~. They scrapped the scheme after advice from the leadership and said they had not planned to circumvent reform. [1:7.]

The prosecution at the Watergate cover-up trial read from transcripts of previously undisclosed tapes and contended that one of them showed President Nixon offering John D. Ehrlichman and H. R. Haldeman \$200,000 to \$300,000 in cash. The suggested context was that the three men understood they were protecting one another. [1:1-2.]

The United Mine Workers leadership will announce today that its members have ratified their new contract and will end their strike tomorrow morning. The vote for approval is estimated at about 55 per cent of those taking part. [1:3.]

The Other News

International

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Quotation of the Day

"We believe that it is in the best interest of the American consumer to pay the higher price for gas which is necessary to induce expanded exploration in production efforts than it is for that same consumer to pay even higher prices for other fuels, if substitutable."
 —John N. Nassikas, chairman of the Federal Power Commission, approving a natural gas price rise. [84:3.]

Amusements and the Arts

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CORRECTION

Figures on taxes, income and losses of the Royal Manhattan Hotel that appeared in an article in The New York Times last Saturday were obtained from real-estate sources. They were not obtained from Jack Margalit, vice president and general manager of the hotel, as was stated in the article.