

News Summary and Index

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1974 DEC 6 1974

The Major Events of the Day

International
Chancellor Helmut Schmidt of West Germany and President Ford agreed at a meeting in Washington yesterday to work toward bringing France into the joint effort of the Western industrial nations to cope with the international energy crisis and accompanying financial problems. A West German spokesman said that Mr. Schmidt was attempting to "build a bridge" between the positions of France and the United States, particularly on the energy policy. [Page 8, Column 4.]

National
Federal Judge John J. Sirica ruled that former President Richard M. Nixon need not testify in any way—either on the witness stand or through deposition—at the Water-gate cover-up trial. He gave two main reasons: Mr. Nixon's poor health and the kind of testimony that Mr. Nixon could be expected to give and whose value to the defendants. Judge Sirica said in a six-page opinion, "should not be unrealistically over-estimated." He noted that Mr. Nixon "has been accused, in effect, of being an accomplice of the defendants." [1:8.]

United Airlines, in an attempt to stop one of the sharpest declines in domestic air travel since World War II, sought Government approval to introduce a new out-rate excursion plan on Feb. 1 that would reduce coach-class rates on most routes by 20 to 25 per cent. Trans World Airlines announced that it would propose a similar plan March 15. [1:6-7.]

A key committee of the Democratic charter conference beat back all attempts to disturb the fragile spirit of conciliation on the eve of the party's miniconvention in Kansas City, Mo. The 52-member rules committee completed its consideration of more than 100 amendments to the draft charter. The product of the labors was a generally moderate document with careful compromises. [1:6-7.]

Senior Democrats on the Ways and Means Committee reassessed their temporarily dormant power to thwart further efforts within the House to limit their authority. The House Democratic leadership, which was said by one of its members to have ordered Ways and Means Democrats to delay making committee changes until a dozen new members are seated, took the position that the incumbent committee members could do as they pleased. [1:5.]

The Other News

International
Arthur F. Burns, chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, disagreeing with the Treasury Secretary, William E. Simon, told Congress that it was a mistake to permit Americans to own gold starting Dec. 31. He urged that Congress pass a pending bill to delay the date by six months, but he conceded that chances of that were slight. The diversion of funds from other investments to gold could amount, "to an uncomfortably large sum," he said. [1:2-3.]

A number of the nation's leading industrialists and businessmen interviewed prior to the annual meeting of the National Association of Manufacturers, said they feared wage and price controls would be imposed by the Ford Administration by the middle of next year. They said inflation and political pressures made controls increasingly likely, but made clear their opposition. [1:2-4.]

Officers of the United Mine Workers signed a new three-year labor contract with the coal industry, officially ending a 24-day miners' strike at midnight last night. Arnold R. Miller, the union's president, said that 56 per cent of the 79,495 members who had exercised their new right to accept or reject their leaders' contract proposal had voted for it. [1:4.]

Metropolitan
On the first full day of a milk strike here, city hospitals served their remaining fresh milk to patients instead of employees; schools gave children fruit juice as a substitute and milk buyers formed lines at supermarkets. Members of the striking union, responding to an appeal by Mayor Beame, agreed to deliver milk today to hospitals and nursing homes. [1:1.]

Blue Cross-Blue Shield of Greater New York asked the State Insurance Department for a 27.8 per cent average rate increase, ranging from \$2.02 to \$10.68 monthly for 45 per cent of its nearly nine million subscribers in New York City and 12 surrounding counties. [1:2-3.]

Three of the central figures in a year-long inquiry by the State of New Jersey into alleged official corruption in Lindenwood, Camden County, including William J. McCade, Lindenwood's Mayor, refused to testify at a public hearing, and an arrest warrant was ordered prepared for a fourth subpoenaed witness, who failed to appear. The hearings, were in their second day. [4:1-2.]

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Quotation of the Day

"I feel as though this was the most thorough examination that has ever been made of any citizen in this country." —Vice President-designate Nelson A. Rockefeller, after hearings ended. [25:1.]

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CORRECTIONS

The dividends table in some editions of The New York Times yesterday incorrectly listed the increased quarterly dividend for J. P. Morgan & Co. The correct figure is 45 cents a share. In previous quarters it was 40 cents.

It was incorrectly reported in last Sunday's New York Times Magazine that the first night of Hanukkah would be celebrated today. The actual first night of the holiday will be next Sunday.