

The Major Events of the Day

International
Ethiopia's governing military council — with a motto of "Ethiopia first"—announced that it would turn the nation into a socialist country with a one-party system, collective farms and direct Government control over all property useful for economic progress. The policy statement was broadcast on the 100th day after the ouster of Haile Selassie as Emperor. [Page 1, Column 1.]

National
President Ford was urged by several leaders of American Jewish groups not to use his new authority to grant lower tariffs to the Soviet Union until he was convinced that Moscow would carry out a controversial commitment to ease its emigration policies. The foreign trade bill passed by Congress yesterday allows the President to authorize nondiscriminatory tariffs to the Soviet Union for 18 months if he certifies that he has received "assurances" that Moscow will adopt freer emigration policies. [1:5.]

The 93d Congress adjourned last night after giving approval to a foreign trade bill that rewrites the nation's basic trade law for the first time in 12 years and to several less significant measures. The Senate approved the trade bill, which was a compromise, by a vote of 72 to 4. The House adopted it by 323 to 36. President Ford's signature is believed to be certain. The adjournment was the calmest in many years, free of the tendentious wrangles that often mark the last days of a session. [1:8.]

Some of President Ford's economic advisers are projecting a huge budget deficit—as much as \$35-billion—for the next fiscal year even without the income tax cut that is under intense debate within the Administration. [1:6-7.]

The Labor Department reported that consumer prices rose nine-tenths of 1 per cent in November. This, combined with a reduction in weekly pay because of a cut in average hours worked, brought a record drop of 1.7 per cent in the workers' "real" after-tax incomes. [1:6-7.]

John J. Wilison, the chief defense lawyer for H. R. Haldeman, in his final argument before the jury at the Watergate cover-up trial said that the prosecution's chief witness, John W. Dean 3d, was a "mastermind of chicanery" and a "perjurer." He told the jurors not to believe Mr. Dean's testimony,

and he challenged the Government's case in a number of other areas. [1:4.]

In a historic decision that is believed certain to be appealed, Federal District Judge William T. Sweigert, in San Francisco ruled that the National Football League's contract and player-reserve system is illegal. In an antitrust suit brought by Joe Kapp, a former Minnesota Vikings quarterback, Judge Sweigert said that the league's "Rozelle" rule under which the N.F.L. can perpetually restrain a player's employment choice was "patently unreasonable and illegal." [1:2-3.]

More than a dozen foreign and domestic airlines agreed to admit to Federal prosecutors that they have made illegal rebates—allegedly totaling many millions of dollars—to travel agents who gave the airlines favored status in regard to booking passengers. The airline face prosecution. [1:3-4.]

Metropolitan
Fewer than half the 1,000 appointed provisional workers ordered dismissed by Mayor Beame as a budget-cutting measure left the city's employ as of yesterday, the Budget Bureau said. A spokesman for the bureau said that only 436 provisional employees, "the bulk of them from agencies controlled by the Mayor," had formally been dropped from the city's payroll. Most of the others, he said, from other nonmayoral agencies that include the Hospitals Corporation and the Transit Authority, "have not responded to the Mayor's request as quickly as they should have." [1:1-2.]

"It is like decommissioning a battleship and putting it in mothballs," Benjamin J. Malcolm, the city's Corrections Commissioner, said as the Tombs was finally shut down. The prison, officially known as the Manhattan House of Detention for Men, at 125 White Street in Lower Manhattan, was closed under a Federal court order, in which the judge said that conditions at the Tombs would "shock the conscience of any citizen who knew them." [1:5-7.]

United States marshals began serving Senate subpoenas here on members of the so-called Bernard Bergman syndicate of nursing homes, who have defied subpoenas of a New York State investigation. In Washington, a subcommittee of the Senate Special Committee on Aging announced that it was joining the investigation of alleged large-scale fraud among New York nursing homes. [1:1-2.]

The Other News

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Quotation of the Day
"I want to be as quiet and as helpful and only do that which is appropriate and useful to the President and to the people of this country."—Vice President Rockefeller. [28:4.]

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