

News Summary and Index

NYTimes

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1974 DEC 26 1974

The Major Events of the Day

International

A cyclone devastated Darwin, Australia, with 125-mile-an-hour winds, killing about 50 persons and leaving hundreds injured and half of the city's 40,000 inhabitants homeless. The death toll was expected to rise when reports were received from the vicinity of Katherine, a town 190 miles from Darwin, also struck by the cyclone. All telephone communications with the area were cut. Many of the dead were trapped in their cars while returning from Christmas Eve parties as metal roofs, timbers and other debris crashed from buildings. [1:6-7.]

Speaking from the outer balcony of St. Peter's Basilica, Pope Paul VI, in his Christmas message to the world, praised Jesus as "the brother of all, the advocate of the poor, the friend of the lowly, the companion of the suffering, the redeemer of sinners—in a word, our Saviour." The Pontiff was heard by 30,000 persons in St. Peter's Square, among them some of the first Holy Year visitors. [3:1-6.]

National

President Ford's senior advisers will fly to Colorado for several days of talks with him. The conferences are expected to lead to basic policy decisions concerning energy and the economy. Despite Mr. Ford's repeated expressions of dislike for a higher gasoline tax, he continues to entertain proposals for such an increase to discourage driving and to move toward a cut in oil imports of one million barrels a day by next fall. [1:8.]

A young man dressed like an Arab in a white robe shattered the Christmas calm in Washington when he drove a car through a White House gate. He was believed to have had "explosives," which actually were railroad flares. The man, identified as Marshall H. Fields, surrendered after about four hours to White House security police and was taken to a hospital for psychiatric examination. [1:1-2.]

Former Secretary of Defense Clark M. Clifford has urged Congress to form a special committee to investigate published charges of domestic spying by the Central Intelligence Agency. Mr. Clifford, who helped to draft legislation in 1947 setting up the C.I.A., said that previous investigations by Senate and House Armed Services Committees had

The Other News

not got very far. Meanwhile, in Vail, Colo., where he is skiing, President Ford is awaiting a 50-page report on the domestic spying allegations from William E. Colby, Director of Central Intelligence. [1:5.]

Concern over the nation's economy has caused President Ford's popularity with the American people to slide to its lowest point since he took office, less than 5 months ago, the latest Gallup poll shows. The poll, taken early this month, showed that 42 per cent of the national sample questioned approved the job Mr. Ford is doing; 41 per cent disapproved and 17 would register no opinion. Last Aug. 9, shortly after he took office, Mr. Ford's approval rating was 71 per cent of the 1,500 adults questioned. [1:4.]

Metropolitan

Fire Commissioner John T. O'Hagan has threatened to serve summonses on the Board of Education unless it corrects hundreds of fire violations in public schools throughout the city. The Commissioner—noting that never in the city's history has a fire department summons been issued to any governmental agency—said he was determined to force the Board of Education to be more responsive. [1:1-2.]

The Joint Strike Force Against Organized Crime here will get a new chief today, William I. Aronwald, a 34-year-old New Yorker with a reputation as a tough prosecutor. He will succeed Edward N. Shaw, who is resigning to enter private practice. The force is an arm of the Justice Department that coordinates Federal, state and local investigations and prosecutes cases of organized crime and racketeering. [1:3.]

A Christmas-morning fire that may have been caused by Christmas tree lights took the lives of four members of a Kinnelon, N.J., family. Mr. and Mrs. Michael Knapp, Mrs. Knapp's mother, Mrs. Sophia Marshall, and the Knapp's 10-year-old son, Terry, died in the blaze, which was discovered by a passing police sergeant. Two other sons, James, 17, and Timothy, 15, escaped by jumping out second-story windows. [4:1, 8.]

Christmas was observed in the city with religious fervor, with gift-giving and gatherings of families and friends. Rain fell for a good part of the day and few people were out. Cars were double-parked outside a downtown Italian bakery while drivers waited patiently for Christmas pastries. [6:7, 1.]

Quotation of the Day

"It's a national disaster."—Acting Prime Minister James F. Cairns, in a statement on the cyclone that struck Darwin, leaving 20,000 homeless. [5:1.]

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CORRECTION

In an obituary article on Richard Francis Carrington Hull, the translator of the works of C. G. Jung, which appeared last Friday in the New York Times, it was said that Mr. Hull lived in Ascut, England. In fact, he was a resident of Mallorca. The correct name of his widow is Birthe Honnum Hull.