

# News Summary and Index

NTimes SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1974 DEC 28 1974

## The Major Events of the Day

**International**  
The Commerce Department reported that the United States balance of export and import trade slipped back into a modest deficit in November after a small surplus in October. The deficit, \$113-million, was the sixth in the last seven months and brought the excess of imports over exports for the year to \$2.4-billion. The deficit was more than accounted for by one product, oil. [1:1-2.]

**National**  
The prosecution completed its final arguments at the Watergate cover-up trial by telling the jurors that it was now up to them to "balance the accounts" and close the ledgers on Watergate. "It's no fun casting stones," the chief prosecutor, James F. Neal, told the jury. "This Government that's represented here does not cast stones with joy or happiness." The jurors are scheduled to begin their deliberations Monday after getting instructions in the law from Judge John J. Sirica. [1:8.]

President Ford held a meeting with 15 advisers in Vail, Colo., where he is vacationing, in an attempt to work out new policy proposals on energy that would both increase the supply and restrict consumption. Ron Nessen, the White House press secretary, described the meeting as "intense," and said the President had ordered that there be "no public discussion" of the options under consideration. [1:3.]

Federal Judge W. Arthur Garrity held three Boston School Committeemen in civil contempt of court for refusing to approve a citywide busing plan for desegregation. He took under advisement until Monday what penalties he might impose on the committee members. Near the end of a court hearing, Judge Garrity appeared to be proposing a solution in which the committee would somehow "submit" the plan without approving it, although the committeemen had been firm in their opposition. [1:2.]

A House committee that conducted a nine-month study of air hazards that accused the Federal Aviation Administration of avoiding leadership and showing signs of "sluggishness which at times approaches an attitude of indifference to public safety." The Special Subcommittee on Investigations said that the F.A.A. had "needlessly and unjustifiably put at risk" thousands of lives by failing to deal properly with dangers of the DC-10 jumbo jet for almost two years. [1:1-2.]

Jack Benny, the comedian, who had been a star of radio and then television for 40 years, died at his home in Beverly Hills, Calif. He was 80 years old, but Mr. Benny, in one of his best-loved and oldest jokes, had insisted for years that he was only 39. His wife, the former Sadie Marks, whom he married 47 years ago, was at his bedside. Under the stage name of Mary Livingstone, she was a leading supporting actress in Benny programs. [1:3-5.]

**Metropolitan**  
Judge Jay E. Rubinow of Connecticut's Superior Court ruled that the state's system of financing public schools was unconstitutional, in a decision that could add momentum to a developing national trend. The judge declared that Connecticut's existing system of distributing school funds evenly to towns according to the number of pupils in school does nothing to correct the inequities arising from the disparate wealth of those towns. His decision was based on the assumption that the state would appeal to Connecticut's Supreme Court. [1:6-7.]

The New Jersey State Senate agreed to hold a special session on Jan. 6 after another unsuccessful attempt to devise a tax program that would meet the State Supreme Court's Dec. 31 deadline for a new system of financing New Jersey's public schools. The present system of school financing, based on local taxes, was declared unconstitutional. [2:7-8.]

The presiding justice of the Appellate Division, Second Department of State Supreme Court, Frank A. Gulotta, issued a directive barring law secretaries from holding office in political organizations and said that he would enforce a court rule that bars them from practicing law except in rare cases. His directive strikes at the heart of what bar associations and the special state prosecutor, Maurice H. Nadjari, have identified as the major areas of corruption and political patronage in the city's court system. [1:5.]

Judge Martin Ginsberg of Nassau County Family Court was found guilty of one count of perjury for having denied before a grand jury that he had received any money from two businessmen for promises to use his influence on their behalf. He was acquitted by Judge Con G. Cholakis in Nassau County Court of a second count of perjury because of "serious question" of corroboration of the testimony of one of the witnesses for the prosecution. [1:4.]

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**Quotation of the Day**  
"The amenities of a first-class French restaurant are as important to civilized living as clean, unpolluted air and the hushed stillness of the night."—Justice Edward J. Greenfield in refusing an injunction sought on the ground that garlic smells emanating from La Goulue Restaurant were objectionable. [6:1.]

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