

News Summary and Index

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The Major Events of the Day

International

It was officially announced in Moscow that Leonid I. Brezhnev had indefinitely postponed his visit to Egypt, Syria and Iraq, which he was to begin in about two weeks. No explanation was given. The indefinite postponement, tantamount in diplomatic terms to cancellation, was regarded as a setback in the Kremlin's efforts to enhance its position in the Middle East. However, this was challenged by a Soviet-Egyptian statement issued in Moscow at the end of a three-day-visit by high Egyptian officials that stressed the "firm friendship" between the two countries. [Page 1, Col. 1.]

The postponement of Mr. Brezhnev's Middle East trip was a welcome surprise to Administration officials in Washington who had expected that the visit might have led to a resurgence of Soviet influence in Egypt at American expense. The State Department refused to comment on the postponement, but officials there assumed that it was a setback to Moscow and opened the way to a new Egyptian-Israeli negotiation through Secretary of State Kissinger. [2:5-8.]

According to official estimates, the earthquake that struck northern Pakistan over the weekend killed 4,700 persons and injured 15,000 in nine towns. The toll is expected to rise as runners make contact with regions farther north that have been cut off since the quake Saturday night and continued intermittently. [2:3.]

Speculative buying in gold continued on the European bullion markets, pushing up its price in anticipation of the entry of American buyers in the market today. The price at the morning fixing in London was a record \$197.50, but demand slackened and the price fell to \$191.50 at the close. [7:7-8.]

National

The jury in the Watergate cover-up trial—nine women and three men—began deliberations in the case against five former White House and Nixon campaign aides. The jurors deliberated for nearly four hours in the afternoon and then recessed until today. There were signs that the verdict will not be a quick one. [1:8.]

E. Howard Hunt Jr., a Watergate burglar who pleaded guilty, told the Senate Watergate Committee in December, 1973, in still-unpublished testimony, that he served as the first chief of clandestine operations for the

The Other News

Central Intelligence Agency's domestic operations division. He said that his domestic activities included the secret financing of a Washington news agency as well as the underwriting of the well-known Fodor's travel guides. He gave other details of his C.I.A. activities yesterday in an interview with The New York Times. [1:6-7.]

President Ford pocket-vetoed two highly controversial bills. One would have required that 20 per cent of the oil imported into the United States be carried on American tankers. The other would have put stringent new restrictions on strip mining of coal. He explained why he had withheld his approval. [1:4.]

Representative Wilbur D. Mills, the former chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, attributed his recent erratic behavior, mainly his well-publicized association with a strip-tease dancer, to acute alcoholism, as he announced that he would retain his seat in Congress. However, he pledged total abstinence. [1:3-4.]

Metropolitan

Mayor Beame said he would propose the formation by the State Legislature of a permanent City-State Fiscal Commission to discuss on a "day-to-day ongoing basis" the range of fiscal problems facing the city and the state's role in their solution. He said members of the commission would be appointed by the Governor, the legislative leadership and himself and would be "staffed with fiscal experts." [1:5.]

A teen-aged sniper armed with a high-powered rifle and other weapons killed three persons and wounded six others in and around the Olean (N. Y.) High School. National Guard tanks, police armored vehicles and fire trucks formed a cordon around the school in the upstate city. 55 miles south of Buffalo. The sniper, identified as 18-year-old Anthony Barbaro, a senior at the school, surrendered to the police after they stormed the school under a barrage of tear gas and gunfire. [2:3-3.]

Gov. Thomas J. Meskill of Connecticut announced that the state would build a \$1-million, 40-unit housing development for the elderly and that half of the development would be heated by solar energy. The state has been awarded a Federal grant of \$130,700 to finance the designing the solar-energy heating system. The development will be built in Hamden. [1:1.]

Quotation of the Day

"I have never been one to quit in the face of adversity and I will not be a quitter now. I know what it is I have to fight and I am resolved to do so."—Rep. Wilbur D. Mills, announcing that he suffers from alcoholism and he intends to remain in Congress. [1:4.]

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CORRECTION

In an obituary of Jack Benny in The New York Times on Dec. 26, it was incorrectly stated that he was unable to have his share of the proceeds of the sale of Amusement Enterprises to CBS classified as capital gains. Although the Internal Revenue Service had disallowed the classification, the Tax Court decided in his favor.