

News Summary and Index

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The Major Events of the Day

International

A fact-finding delegation of eight members of Congress left for home after a heated, theatrical encounter with representatives of North Vietnam and the Vietcong's Provisional Revolutionary Government yesterday. The delegation visited South Vietnam and Cambodia at President Ford's request to determine if Saigon and Phnom Penh required additional military aid. Most members of the group professed to have not quite made up their minds on the Administration's request for \$522-million, but several said that the group had at least reached a rough consensus that it was imperative for Secretary of State Kissinger to involve the United States again in a search for negotiated settlements of the Vietnamese and Cambodian wars. [Page 1, Column 1.]

The kidnapping ordeal of Peter Lorenz, a West Berlin party leader, moved toward a climax on election night. West Berlin and West German authorities flew four convicted anarchists and a hostage to Frankfurt as the kidnappers demanded. Two anarchist prisoners whose release was demanded by the radical June 2 Movement had refused to agree to be exchanged for Mr. Lorenz, whose Christian Democratic party gained votes, but apparently not enough to make him Mayor. [1:2-3.]

National

Democrats on the House Ways and Means Committee formally issued proposals for a national energy program, and Administration officials indicated privately that the plan offered a better basis for compromise with the White House than the program offered last week by a study group of Congressional Democrats. The committee's plan includes a graduated tax on gasoline and import quotas. [1:8.]

As unemployment has increased, enrollment in the Government's food stamp program has increased by two million, pushing the national enrollment to 17.9 million people as of Jan. 31. Meanwhile, reports issued by Government agencies and a Congressional group were critical of the program. The Senate Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs estimated that only 38 per cent of persons eligible for food stamps were receiving them, and that about 20 million eligible persons were not on the rolls. [1:7.]

Public elementary schools across the country are putting renewed stress on teaching basic reading and arithmetic in response to falling test scores and parents demanding a no-frills education for their children. [1:5-8.]

Metropolitan

A two-block-long rubber factory in Shelton, Conn., near New Haven, was blown up and completely destroyed by three armed men wearing ski masks and claiming to be members of the radical "Weather Underground." Three factory employees were overpowered and tied to a tree nearby before the explosives were set off. No one was injured in the blast. The factory had been owned by years by the B. F. Goodrich Company until its sale last year to the Grand Sheet Metal Company. It was the town's principal employer. [1:5-7.]

Governor Carey, in a shift of policy, will ask the Legislature today for an immediate \$110-million appropriation "to prevent chaos and keep the Urban Development Corporation's assets from being dismembered." He tacitly conceded that the request was a reversal of his statement last week that he would not seek any more money for the U.D.C. without a firm commitment from major banks to put up \$370-million. [1:4.]

The New York Telephone Company will begin a special messenger service this morning for about 8,500 business and professional offices whose telephones were cut off by the fire last Thursday in a telephone switching center in lower Manhattan. The service, operating from 8 A.M. to 9 P.M. Monday through Saturday, will inform business and professional people that a certain person at a certain number wants to be called. It will be up to the recipient to find a working telephone to return the call. The messenger service will be run by the Wildcat Service Corporation, a city-financed concern that employs former addicts. [29:3.]

The state's fair-trade law, which prohibits a merchant from selling goods at prices below those set by the manufacturer, would be repealed under a bill that will be introduced today in the Legislature by 61 Assemblymen. The measure, which has the backing of Governor Carey, would lower prices on a wide range of merchandise, including electrical appliances, clothing and watches. [28:2-4.]

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Quotation of the Day

"Whenever and wherever people who have committed no crimes are forbidden to leave a country, our Statue of Liberty stands threatened."—Mayor Beame at the statue, where he and Governor Carey declared April 13 "Solidarity Sunday" to support the right of Jews to emigrate from the Soviet Union. [29:5.]

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