

News Summary and Index

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 1975 MAR 12 1975

The Major Events of the Day

International

A surprise vote of 4 to 3 in a Senate Foreign Relations subcommittee approved an Administration compromise to give Cambodia an additional \$125-million in military aid. This action, and to a lesser extent a 3-3 tie vote on a similar measure in a House Foreign Affairs subcommittee, gave at least a temporary reprieve in the Administration's uphill struggle to aid the Lon Nol Government. [Page 1, Column 8.]

President Lon Nol asked Premier Long Boret to form a new cabinet in Cambodia and removed the commander of the armed forces. This was seen as a gesture to the Cambodian insurgents and to leaders of the American Congress who have demanded removal of the entire Lon Nol government, but the action was not expected to have major impact on either group. [1:6.]

Fighting picked up sharply across South Vietnam. Government reinforcements reached the provincial capital of Ban Me Thout in the Central Highlands where North Vietnamese troops have a firm foothold in the southern section. Some thought the action there might be a feint with the real direction of the North Vietnamese drive not yet evident. [1:5.]

Egypt has suggested that a new disengagement agreement with Israel in Sinai contain some of the language as the first such agreement in January, 1974, according to Egyptian officials in Aswan. That one included a formal cease-fire observance pledge and a promise to refrain from military or paramilitary action. The Egyptians have also suggested that the accord extend to naval units operating in the Mediterranean and Red Sea. [1:3-4.]

Two planes of Portugal's Air Force attacked a Lisbon artillery barracks in what officers called an attempted coup against the left-wing military Government. Loyal officers said the Government remained in complete control. The chief or security forces hinted that he believed the United States was involved. Gen. Antonio de Spínola, who led the coup against the dictator last April but was ousted as president in September, was reported to have arrived in Spain by helicopter. [1:6-7.]

The government chiefs of the nine Common Market countries reached agreement in Dublin on easier membership terms for Britain. After two difficult days of bargain-

ing in the face of British threats of withdrawal, the others conceded to Prime Minister Wilson the lower budget payment to the Market he had sought. His cabinet is now expected to urge the people to vote "yes" in the coming referendum, but there is no certainty voters will do so. [1:3-4.]

National

The Securities and Exchange Commission charged the Gulf Oil Corporation with falsifying its reports to conceal a \$10-million secret fund from which illegal political contributions were made between 1960 and 1974. The sum is by far the largest corporate political fund alleged to exist by any law-enforcement agency since disclosures began as an outgrowth of the Nixon Administration scandals. The S. E. C. said that Gulf had agreed to an order that will bar it from taking similar illegal action. The company will be required to produce details about the fund and to correct its previous false reports. [1:1.]

Fossil hunters in Big Bend National Park in West Texas have discovered remains of an extinct winged reptile with an estimated wing span of 51 feet—more than twice the span of the biggest previously known pterodactyl and the largest known creature ever to have flown. It flourished more than 50 million years ago. [1:1-3.]

Metropolitan

A series of political maneuvers in Albany delayed the election of three members to the State Board of Regents. The maneuvers included refusal by Senate Republicans to walk across a Capitol corridor to meet with the Assembly and an attempt by the Democratic Lieutenant Governor, Mary Anne Krupsak, to preside over a "joint" session with no senators present. The law required a vote yesterday, but the raucous procedural twists and turns were holding up the balloting. [1:2.]

The Byrne administration in Trenton and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey were reported to have reached general agreement on financing the extension of the PATH Rapid Transit System from Newark to Plainfield. New Jersey would guarantee that the Port Authority would have no financial responsibility for commuter operating deficits on the extension if it provided the local share—\$80-million—of the Federally-financed project. [3:6-7.]

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Quotation of the Day

"There was a cry for help in the dark of night which I did not want to deny."—Senator Jacob K. Javits, speaking of his vote in a subcommittee for additional military aid for Cambodia. [12:1.]

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CORRECTION

An article in The New York Times on Feb. 28 reported incorrectly that state records showed the Rose Manor Convalescent Home in Waterbury, Conn., had spent an average of 32 cents a day per patient for food. The correct figure on the state records is \$1.71 per patient per day.