

News Summary and Index

SATURDAY, MARCH 22, 1975 MAR 22 1975

NYTimes The Major Events of the Day

International

Heavy fighting flared near Saigon yesterday and the Saigon command reported the loss of a key base camp 40 miles west of the city and said that a 100-truck convoy carrying ammunition to beleaguered Tay Ninh City had been ambushed. There were reports that the North Vietnamese had moved tanks, demolition units and antiaircraft weapons within 30 to 40 miles of Saigon. "They've got everything they need to strike," a Western military analyst said. [Page 1, Column 8.]

By the thousands, the people are abandoning Hue, the former imperial capital of Vietnam. The road south from the city is a scene of suffering. The armed forces are also moving out and no one seems to have the slightest doubt that Hue is being left to the Communists. The refugees were moving toward the coastal city of Da Nang. Trucks, buses, army vehicles, cattle herds, bicycles and people on foot jammed Route 1, a narrow, badly asphalted road. [1:7.]

High Administration officials say they have inadequate information about what is happening in Indochina and little control over events in Saigon. These officials are experiencing some of the feelings of frustration and visions of doom that American officials had at the time of the Tet offensive by the Communists in 1968. They also speak of a feeling of defeatism in Congress. [1:6.]

With Congressional leaders preoccupied with Easter recess plans, parliamentary rules and considerable opposition to Administration requests, it seemed it was hardly possible that Congress would act on emergency military aid for South Vietnam and Cambodia before mid-April. [1:5.]

Negotiations for a new Egyptian-Israeli agreement on Sinai appeared to have narrowed to the crucial question of how much territory Israel would agree to give up in return for Egyptian political assurances that fall short of Israel's original demand. The Israeli Cabinet held an extraordinary sabbath session to discuss the latest Egyptian "modifications" and demands brought back by Secretary of State Kissinger, who made an overnight trip to Aswan for consultations with President Anwar el-Sadat. [1:6-7.]

National

The Senate neared final action on the tax bill after adopting some additional amendments, including one that would remove all

The Other News

limitations on the deductions that working parents may take for child-care expenses. There were indications that it would approve a tax cut of nearly \$30-billion. The Senate also voted \$150-million in tax relief for the Chrysler Corporation, but rejected appeals for somewhat smaller bailouts for two big companies that are also losing money, the Lockheed Aircraft Corporation and Pan American World Airways. [1:1.]

Experts assigned by the Federal District Court in Boston to prepare a plan for next fall's citywide school desegregation presented a draft that they said would desegregate more classrooms with less busing than the interim plan that caused controversy and sporadic violence. The draft also proposes an unprecedented "pairing" of Boston's colleges and universities with individual high schools and city school districts. [1:4.]

Metropolitan

Federal and New York City officials met in an effort to find a way to infuse what a city financial official called "a massive amount of cash" into the city's treasury. "We're not talking budget gap or stuff like that," he said. "We're talking cash flow. We need cash and we need it in 30 days." Several proposals to help the city were discussed, including the possible purchase of city securities by the United States Treasury or the Federal Reserve system or low-cost or no-cost Federal Reserve loans to the city with the city's securities as collateral. [1:2-3.]

The controversial nomination of former Gov. Thomas J. Meskill of Connecticut to the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit was approved by the Senate Judiciary Committee, which voted 8 to 6, but there were predictions of a floor fight. Senator Lowell P. Weicker, the Connecticut Republican who sponsored Mr. Meskill for the judgeship, said "It's been an uphill fight." [1:5.]

The New York Telephone Company raced to meet its 11:59 P.M. deadline for full restoration of service to the 300-block area in lower Manhattan that had been without telephone service for more than three weeks. More than half of the 3,000 coin telephones in the area were back in service by the end of the day; half of them with two-way service and the other half able to handle only outgoing calls. By early evening, the laborious task of hooking up 104,000 residential and business lines had begun. [4:3-6.]

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"I was a skinny kid and always getting picked on." —Charles (Chuck) Weptner, who will box Muhammad Ali for the heavyweight championship in Cleveland Monday night. [This Page, Column 5.]

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