

# News Summary and Index

NTimes FRIDAY, MARCH 28, 1975 MAR 28 1975

## The Major Events of the Day

### International

The North Vietnamese advance surged along the central plains of South Vietnam yesterday. Behind it virtually all the northern part of South Vietnam had been engulfed. Only the enclave of Da Nang, South Vietnam's second largest city, remained in Saigon Government hands, and the central coastal port of Qui Nhon, the country's third largest city, appeared threatened. At least eight South Vietnamese army regiments—a total of about 19,000 men—have reportedly fled, leaving equipment behind. The retreat, a Western military analyst said, was "a rout beyond our wildest fears." [Page 1, Column 8.]

A group of opposition politicians met for mer Vice President Nguyen Cao Ky and called on President Nguyen Van Thieu of South Vietnam to "turn over full powers to a new Government" that would pursue new policies for national salvation. [6:7-8.]

The South Vietnamese forces are not critically short of either ammunition or fuel, despite Congressional reductions in military aid, the Defense Department said, but its officials assert that Congressional cutbacks had contributed to the Saigon Government's recent military setbacks by forcing its troops—as they sought to conserve military supplies—on the defensive. [1:6-7.]

The Commerce Department reported that a huge and probably temporary drop in oil imports moved the United States balance of trade from a deficit in January to a record surplus of \$917-million in February. The decline in oil imports—by \$1.5-billion in a single month—was attributed mainly to the distorting effect of the imposition Feb. 1 of a new \$1-a-barrel import tax. [1:6-7.]

President Ford said in an interview soon after Secretary of State Kissinger returned to Washington that chances for peace in the Middle East would have been enhanced if Israel had shown more flexibility in the negotiations for a new Sinai agreement with Egypt. Publicly, Mr. Kissinger has said no blame should be assessed, but privately he has indicated displeasure with Israel's position. Mr. Ford seemed to reflect Mr. Kissinger's views. [1:2-3.]

### National

President Ford believes that the House would sustain a veto of the \$22.8-billion tax-cut bill passed by Congress, but it will

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### International

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Unemployment in New York State continued to worsen in February, figures from the State Labor Department indicated. There were 21,800 more people out of work last month than in January, and the jobless rate rose from 9.3 to 9.6 per cent of the total labor force. In New York City, a small seasonal rise in employment in the apparel industry helped to reduce the city's jobless rate from 10.6 to 10.4 per cent. [1:5.]

A coordinated drive against illicit drug traffic would be undertaken under a three-state compact involving New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania proposed by three Democratic legislators, each representing his own state. They believe the three states will lose the battle against drug abuse unless it is fought on a regional basis. [29:3.]

The Federal Government is prepared to aid landlords of nearly 100,000 apartments—most are in New York City and New Jersey—by helping them seek higher rents if the buildings are financially "jeopardized" by local rent controls. The apartments were built with federally insured mortgages. The Ford Administration believes that local controls have become a "significant factor" in causing mortgage defaults, a view endorsed by many landlords. [1:5-6.]

President Ford believes that the House would sustain a veto of the \$22.8-billion tax-cut bill passed by Congress, but it will

## Quotation of the Day

"The President believes he could sustain a veto in the House if he decides to veto the bill"—Ron Nessen, White House press secretary, on the tax bill. [1:1.]

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