

International

The Cambodian Communist insurgents were within three miles of the western edge of Phnom Penh yesterday, and to the north of the capital, one report said, the insurgents raised their flags over factories less than five miles from the city's edge. The insurgents' objective seemed to be to cut off the city from Pocheunteung airport, which is its last supply link with the outside world, and then move into the city. [Page 1, Column 8.]

South Vietnamese forces were reported holding off the Communists at Xuan Loc, a key provincial capital 36 miles northeast of Saigon, under continuing bombardment and attacks. Military sources in Saigon said that fresh Communist units were moving into the battle and that all or most of three North Vietnamese divisions were in action. [1:6-7.]

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee balked at the Ford Administration's request for broad Presidential authority to use American troops to protect the evacuation of both American and South Vietnamese citizens from South Vietnam. After an executive session, the committee, at its request, met with President Ford at the White House to present its objections to the use of American troops in the evacuation of any—other than American citizens. [1:4.]

A new Israeli-designed and manufactured jet fighter, comparable to the French Mirage and the Soviet MiG-21, was displayed at a ceremony in Israel attended by Premier Yitzhak Rabin and most other members of the Government. The Kfir is the latest version of the supersonic Mirage family of aircraft produced in Israel. An earlier, less sophisticated model was used successfully against the Arab air forces in the October, 1973, war. This was the first time that Israel had displayed any of the planes in public. [1:1-4.]

National

John B. Connally, Secretary of the Treasury in the Nixon Administration and a former Governor of Texas, testified in his trial on bribery charges in Washington that he had not sought or accepted \$10,000 in pay-offs for helping dairy farmers to obtain increased Federal price supports in 1971. He took the witness stand after Lady Bird Johnson, the Rev. Billy Graham and Representative Barbara C. Jordan of Texas gave

testimony as character witnesses in his defense. [1:2-3.]

Under a bill passed by the House of Representatives, Federal loans would be made to the unemployed to help them meet mortgage payments on their homes if foreclosure was imminent. The bill passed by a vote of 321 to 21. Unemployed homeowners would be eligible for loans of up to \$250 a month for up to two years. It is estimated that 300,000 families could be helped. [1:2-3.]

The nation's businesses succeeded in reducing top-heavy inventories by a record \$1.5-billion in February, mainly because car dealers reduced their bulging stocks, principally through a temporary rebate offer. Inventory changes for most other lines of business were small, both up and down. In January, unsold automobiles represented a substantial inventory problem. The decline in automobile inventories suggests that the inventory liquidation is well under way, a Commerce Department official said. A reduction of inventories is generally regarded by economists as a condition for economic recovery. [1:5.]

Fredric March, an actor on the stage and in motion pictures for 50 years, died of cancer at Mount Sinai Hospital in Los Angeles. He was 77 years old. [1:6-7.]

Metropolitan

State officials said that construction of more than \$1-billion in nursing homes, hospital additions, facilities for the handicapped and other health projects had been held up because investors had been frightened by the highly publicized fiscal problems of the Urban Development Corporation. Local groups planning the projects had spent an estimated \$50-million in the expectation of U.D.C. financing when they were told that money might not be available after all. "They're out on a limb, and we're out on a limb with them," an official of the State Health Department said. [1:1.]

A highly controversial measure banning Medicaid payments for abortions unless the life of the mother is in danger cleared the New Jersey Legislature. Although nine Federal District Courts in eight states have declared similar bills unconstitutional, Governor Byrne said last week that he would sign the measure if the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit did not rule it unconstitutional. [1:4-5-7.]

The Other News

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Japanese voting indicates swing toward right. Page 2

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General School youth get seminar on stock market. Page 14

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Quotation of the Day

"No breakfast is worth \$37."—Peggy Candito of Carteret, N. J., traveling to Miami on a discontinued "no frills" flight. [This Page, Column 6.]

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Madison Square Garden said to be for sale. Page 61

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