

The Major Events of the Day

International

Denouncing the United States as untrustworthy, South Vietnam's President, Nguyen Van Thieu, has resigned after 10 years in office. He appointed his Vice President, Tran Van Huong, to replace him and said President Huong would immediately press for an end to the war and a start of peace negotiations. In an impassioned address to his nation, Mr. Thieu defended his character and his regime's accomplishments. [Page 1, Column 8.]

North Vietnamese gunners are heavily shelling two besieged provincial capitals on the northeastern and eastern approaches to Saigon. Infantry action was reported to be limited to probing attacks and there was no sign of a heavy Communist thrust toward the capital city. [1:7.]

Administration sources in Washington said that President Ford two or three weeks ago had ordered a "hands off" policy that neither supported nor abandoned President Nguyen Van Thieu. This instruction, one official said, must have been interpreted by high South Vietnamese officials as a change in American policy, and caused them to put pressure on Mr. Thieu to resign as the only hope of getting Congressional approval of more military aid. [1:6.]

Defense Department officials in Washington have concluded that the situation in South Vietnam is deteriorating so rapidly that the United States must plan for an immediate evacuation of all Americans and their dependents from Saigon. The White House, State Department and the Pentagon were reported urgently weighing the evacuation of 2,800 Americans and 1,200 Vietnamese dependents. Officials reported that Secretary of State Kissinger was resisting proposals for a complete evacuation of all Americans and their dependents. [1:4.]

National

In the first major confrontation between employment and the environment in the present session of Congress, the House of Representatives has voted for jobs. The issue involved would change Federal environmental protection laws in order to end legal snarls that have halted 130 highway construction jobs in New York, Connecticut and Vermont amounting to \$2.3-billion and providing jobs for some 150,000 workers. One of the major projects involved here,

is the West Side Highway reconstruction. Another is an approach to Kennedy International Airport. [1:1.]

This week has been designated Law and Order Week on the Pine Ridge Oglala Sioux Reservation in South Dakota. The irony of the designation is evident as Federal Bureau of Investigation statistics show that six persons have been killed on the reservation since the first of the year, and 67 other persons have been assaulted, some with tomahawks and hammers. This gives Pine Ridge, a per-capita homicide rate six times greater than that of Chicago. [1:1-2.]

Metropolitan

Bowing to the storm of protests from commuters, the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey has voted to continue offering reduced-rate ticket books to unaccompanied drivers after May 5. Originally the Port Authority announced the round-trip rate for cars would be \$1.50. The new commuter books for unaccompanied drivers will be \$1 a round trip, which is 50 cents more than the current commuter rate and 50 cents less than the fare originally announced. [1:2-3.]

Governor Carey announced an agreement to settle a three-year-long Federal Court fight over the state's Willowbrook Developmental Center for the mentally retarded. The plan would reduce the once overcrowded sprawling facility from its present 2,900 patients to 250 over six years, creating 200 new community places for patients during the next year. These would include hostels, halfway houses, group homes, workshops and day-care training centers. [1:2-3.]

John C. Sawhill, who was formerly Federal Energy Administrator, has been named the 12th president of New York University. Dr. Sawhill, who is 38 years old, is a graduate of the university and served there briefly as a teacher and administrator. He succeeds Dr. James M. Hester, who resigned late last year to become head of the new United Nations University in Tokyo. [1:2.]

The Bolivian farmer who harvests his crop of coca leaves can get \$250 for 300 pounds. This amount will produce 2.2 pounds of cocaine, which sells for \$75,000 in the New York retail market. The methods used to smuggle the narcotics into the United States, according to a survey conducted by The New York Times, are bizarre and sometimes fatal to the couriers. [1:7-8.]

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"The United States has It is unfair. It is inhumane. Irresponsible."—President N. Vietnam in his resignation

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