

## The Major Events of the Day

**International**  
 The White House announced that a Cambodian naval ship seized a United States merchant ship in what were said to be international waters 60 miles off the coast of Cambodia and forced it to the nearest Cambodian port. Ron Nessen, the White House press secretary, said that President Ford "considers this seizure an act of piracy." He said the American ship was fired on by the Cambodian ship and immediately afterward was boarded by Cambodian naval forces. [Page 1 Column 8.]

A pro-Communist general, Khamouan Boupha, announced that he had become the new Defense Minister of Laos. He issued orders grounding the air force and forbidding all movement of troops or military equipment. He had been Deputy Defense Minister under Sisouk na Champassak, a right wing Cabinet officer who resigned Friday and is now understood to have fled the country. [1:5.]

With unusual speed, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee approved legislation providing financial aid for Indochina refugees. It limited the total cost to \$405-million, the same amount approved last Thursday by a House appropriations subcommittee, but lower than the \$507-million requested by President Ford. The Senate committee approved the bill by a vote of 13 to 0, indicating that both houses would approve similar refugee legislation perhaps by the end of this week. [1:4.]

More than 16,000 South Vietnamese refugees arrived at Guam on four merchant ships. Another ship with about 4,000 additional refugees was due later. They will bring to almost 100,000 the number of refugees who have landed on Guam on their way to the continental United States since the fall of Saigon. [2:1-4.]

Volkswagen, the leading symbol of West Germany's "economic miracle," announced a loss of \$336-million in its worldwide operations for 1974. The company, which had never before reported a loss, will probably lose an equal amount in 1975, its managing director said. The oil crisis and the recession cut the company's car sales last year, idling 40 per cent of its German plant capacity and work force. [1:6-8.]

## National

### The House Ways and Means Committee

deeply divided on the best way to deal with the nation's energy problems, approved legislation that would raise the Federal tax on gasoline and take other steps to save fuel. The measure was adopted by a vote of 19 to 16. [1:6-7.]

C Douglas Dillon, vice chairman of the Rockefeller Commission, said that after 18 weeks of investigation it was his opinion that the Central Intelligence Agency had never engaged in massive domestic spying. However, he indicated that there had been "one or two rather major exceptions" regarding illegal activity. He declined to elaborate. [1:7.]

**Metropolitan**  
 Mayor Beame presented to Governor Carey and Democratic leaders in Albany a \$34-million package of proposed New York City taxes, including a doubled commuter tax, a big rise in stock-transfer levies on nonresidents and increased taxes on banks and other businesses. "Nothing was rejected out of hand," he said afterward. [1:1.]

New York City notes and bonds dropped sharply in price as the market reacted to the announcement by Secretary of the Treasury William E. Simon that the Federal Government would not help solve the city's severe money shortage. As a result, yields on the city's bonds rose above 10 per cent, exceeding the levels reached early last month just before the state advanced \$400-million to pay off city debts. [1:1.]

Explosives, knives and lock picks were smuggled into the Criminal Courts building at 100 Centre Street to three self-described members of the Black Liberation Army who were being sentenced to life imprisonment for the murder of two New York City policemen. The irritant Chemical Mace and a wrench were also discovered by correction officers in a search. [1:2-3.]

The Moreland Act Commission on Nursing Homes heard testimony that at least 12 private nursing-home operators paid a "head-hunter" to recruit patients from hospitals and that at least one nonprofit institution demanded that Medicaid applicants make substantial donations or sign their property before admission. City officials and social workers also testified that patients were placed in nursing homes with little attention to their needs and none to conditions in the homes. [1:2-3.]

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## Quotations of the Day

"Let's keep our shirts on and see if they return the ship. I believe a little patience is deserved rather than cause an attack on the new Cambodian Government." — Senator Jacob K. Javits, Republican of New York, commenting on the Cambodian seizure of a United States merchant vessel. [19:1.]

"A failure by the United States to react swiftly and clinically will only invite further outrages against the persons and property of American citizens. I therefore urge the President to order immediate punitive air and naval attacks on appropriate targets in Cambodia." — Senator James L. Buckley, Republican-Conservative of New York. [19:1.]

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