

News Summary and Index

NYTimes MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 1975 SEP 22 1975

The Major Events of the Day

International

A high-ranking Syrian mediation mission appeared determined yesterday to establish a durable truce among Lebanon's warring factions on the left and right as an uncertain calm settled over Beirut. Syria's Foreign Minister, Abdul Halim Khaddam, said "we will not leave Lebanon until the crisis is solved, even if we have to stay a month. "On Saturday night he had cajoled the leftist and rightist leaders into a cease-fire that has only been occasionally violated. Ultimately, the leftists hope to alter the National Covenant of 1943, which gives a leading political role to Lebanon's Maronite Christians and divides electoral offices on the basis of religious affiliation. Altering the National Covenant is anathema to the Phalangist leader, Pierre Gemayel, who has threatened to "internationalize the crisis" if it is not resolved soon. [Page 1, Column 1.]

The African elephant, the largest land animal alive, is declining in numbers so rapidly that some wildlife experts fear that within a decade it may be on the verge of extermination in much, if not all, of Africa. The most acute threat is a sharp increase in illegal slaughter to supply a booming ivory trade. [1:5-8.]

National

The Federal Energy Administration announced that it was removing the 60-cent-a-barrel fee on imported petroleum products, mainly to end uncertainties about the future of the fee that threatened to create shortages this winter of imported home heating oil and heavy industrial oil. Officials said that the fee's removal, retroactive to Sept. 1, should produce a prompt price reduction of about 1½ cents per gallon on imported home heating oil. They also said that President Ford would decide by the end of the month whether to lift the \$2-a-barrel on imported crude oil. [1:2-4.]

Patricia Hearst and her parents are expected to testify tomorrow when a hearing resumes in Federal District Court in San Francisco on her request to be freed on bail. One of the questions Miss Hearst will be asked is why she gave her occupation as "urban guerrilla" when she was booked after her arrest last Thursday. "It would be my advice that she 'not testify,'" the lawyer, James Martin Machness, a specialist in Federal criminal defense, said. [1:1.]

The Other News

International

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Metropolitan

A high City Hall official said that Parks Commissioner Edwin L. Weisl Jr. would probably be the next top-level city official to leave the Beame administration under circumstances similar to the forced resignation of Sanitation Commissioner Robert T. Groh, "top people" in the Transportation Administration and the Economic Development Administration were among others likely to be forced out very soon, the official said. Mr. Weisl said that he had been expecting his dismissal and that he was relieved. [1:8.]

Martin Lang, the Acting Sanitation Commissioner, said that one of the first things he would do in his new job would be to "strengthen" the Sanitation Department's disciplinary unit. He said that Mayor Beame had discussed with him the department's statistics on discipline and had expressed dissatisfaction with the way many sanitationmen charged with misconduct had been given only "reprimands" that did not seem to have anything to do with their assignments or promotions. He said he did not know whether the city had been cleaned up after the Mayor's ultimatum 10 days ago, which led to Commissioner Robert T. Gorn's resignation on Saturday. [1:6-7.]

Mayor Beame, intervening in the musicians' strike that has shut nine Broadway musicals, called union and theater leaders to Gracie Mansion to express his "deep concern." His intervention was brought about by Vincent D. McDonnell, chairman of the State Mediation Board, who reported "an absolute impasse" between union demands for wage increases without giving up premium pay rates and management demands for relief from restrictions. He said this could be "indicative of a long strike." [1:6-7.]

The proposed passenger-rail link from Pennsylvania Station and Jamaica, Queens, to Kennedy International Airport is under "re-examination" because its cost is many times the original estimate, according to William J. Roman, chairman of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. Dr. Roman said the rail link's cost was now estimated at \$469-million, 10 times the 1968 estimate of \$47 million. In addition, estimates of the number of people who would use the line "have been going down." [1:5.]

Quotation of the Day

"She's not the same girl that she used to be." — Catherine Hearst, after seeing her daughter. [3:6-1.]

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