

The Major Events of the Day

International

International relief workers believe that more than 3,000 people were killed by the earthquake that struck Guatemala Wednesday morning. "It's really impossible to know accurately because many villages are still cut off," William Salas, a United States Care director said yesterday. Another Care aide said that people were desperately asking for food and water. "We estimate that we're going to have to feed at least 5,000 people for 10 days." [Page 1, Columns 1-4.]

A proposal that the French Communist Party broaden its appeal by dropping a key Marxist doctrine and seek power through democratic means was endorsed by delegates to the party's national congress in Paris. Thus, the French party, the second largest Communist organization in Western Europe, appeared to be headed toward what its leader, George Marchais, said was a policy of "communism under the French colors." [1:6-7.]

National

Liberal Democrats, in a dramatic comeback in the House defeated the Administration-backed natural-gas deregulation bill, making it unlikely that any such measure would be passed by Congress this year. The liberals, who lost a key vote on Tuesday, voted 205-201 to substitute for the deregulation bill one that would continue Federal regulation on a narrower basis than at present. [1:8.]

James E. Smith, the Comptroller of the Currency, said that the United States banking system was sound, but he disclosed that there were 28 national banks in either critical or serious financial trouble. Mr. Smith, who testified before the Senate Banking Committee, said that there had been an increase recently in the amount of risky foreign loans to either businesses or governments by the 20 largest banks. [1:6-7.]

Senator Frank Church called for the appointment of a special prosecutor to investigate evidence of criminal activity by the Central Intelligence Agency and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. He said that his committee on intelligence had found evidence of criminal activity by intelligence officers in eight major areas, including possible perjury before Congressional committees. He made the proposal on his own behalf. The question of a special prosecutor

has not been placed before his committee. The White House later issued a statement strongly disagreeing with the proposal. [1:5.]

The American Medical Association and the Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association have criticized the five-part series on incompetent physicians and inept medical practices published in The New York Times last week. The A.M.A. said that the articles "stated many things that needed stating," but that some of the conclusions were "unjustified" by the evidence on which they relied. The pharmaceutical association described the article in the series concerning the misrepresentation of drugs as "dangerously negative and misleading." There were other responses from physicians, nurses, dentists, professional organizations and patients, many of whom said they had suffered as result of medical practices such as those described in the series. [1:1-3.]

The National Academy of Sciences has found that the efficacy of chemical insect control is declining alarmingly. Alternative methods must be developed to supplement the chemicals, the academy said, or the United States may have difficulty in meeting its goals for increased food production. Many pest species have apparently developed a genetic resistance to insecticides, and it was suggested that biological weapons, such as viruses and microbes, be used against them. [1:1.]

Metropolitan

Two Federal judges warned that prosecutors who made improper statements about criminal cases could be vulnerable to damage suits for the violation of defendants' rights. The warning resulted from a damage suit by six loan-shark defendants who sued Bronx District Attorney Mario Merola and two of his assistants who, it was alleged, had told newsmen at the time of their arrest that the defendants were linked to the Mafia. The damage suit had been dismissed. The Federal judges had ruled on an appeal to have it reinstated. [1:4.]

The state announced strict cost-cutting measures for the city's publicly financed housing program to speed up the licensing of new projects and eliminate those that did not meet standards. Another aim, according to the State Commissioner of Social Services, Stephen Berger, is to weed out ineligible children. [2:6-1:3.]

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"It is evident that the provinces have been worst hit and have the most urgent needs."—Gen. Kjell Laugerud Garcia, President of Guatemala. [1:1.]

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