

News Summary and Index

NYTimes

SATURDAY, MARCH 6, 1976

MAR 6 1976

The Major Events of the Day

International

The Soviet Minister of Agriculture, Dmitri S. Polyansky, was abruptly dropped from the governing Politburo apparently as punishment for the country's disastrous grain crop failure last year. His name was conspicuously absent from the list of newly elected Politburo members that Leonid I. Brezhnev read yesterday at the closing session of the 25th Communist Party Congress in Moscow. Two other party figures, Grigory V. Romanov and Dmitri F. Ustinov, were promoted to full members of the Politburo. Mr. Romanov, the Leningrad party chief, and Mr. Ustinov, head of the Soviet defense industry complex, were formerly alternates, or nonvoting members. [Page 1, Col. 6-7.]

The British Government announced that it would continue the administration of Northern Ireland indefinitely following the failure of its efforts to politically reconcile the province's Roman Catholics and Protestants. Merlyn Rees, Britain's Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, told the House of Commons that the 78-seat Northern Ireland Convention, which was elected last May to work out a political reconciliation, would be dissolved at midnight and the British would run Ulster "for some time to come." [1:1.]

The British pound, once the pillar of the world's economy, fell below \$2 for the first time. For the last six months the pound had been close to falling through the psychological barrier. It closed at \$1.975 yesterday. Its value declined, it was said, because the Bank of England decided that Britain would be better off with a shrunken pound. [1:2-3.]

The United States proposed an international pact to combat corporate bribery and promised to eventually answer governments seeking the identities of officials bribed by the Lockheed Aircraft Corporation. But Deputy Secretary of State Robert S. Ingersoll said that the disclosure process would take time and that the Government would not tell Japan and the Netherlands which officials were involved in Lockheed bribery charges for at least six months. [1:1-4.]

National

The Labor Department said that the employment situation continued to improve in February. The national unemployment rate on a seasonally adjusted basis eased to 7.5

The Other News

International

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The cancer-death rate in the United States rose at a faster rate last year than in any year since 1945, according to the National Center for Health Statistics, which estimates that the 1974-75 increase will be between 2 and 3 percent, perhaps slightly above 3 percent. Not since 1950 has the increase in the cancer death rate been as high as 2 percent, and the rate has not been above 2 percent since 1945 when the increase over the previous year was 4 percent. [1:6-7.]

F. Lee Bailey, Patricia Hearst's chief counsel, accused a Government witness of trying "to fix" the Hearst case with a negotiated plea of guilty for a probationary term, and was accused by the witness of having approved of the proposal. Dr. Joel Fort, a medical consultant, and Mr. Bailey called each other a liar. [1:8.]

Metropolitan

The administrative assistant to the Nassau County Republican chairman and seven present or former officials of the Town of Hempstead have been indicted by Federal and Nassau County grand juries investigating allegations of 1 percent kickbacks to the Nassau County Republican Party. The eight men, named in nine indictments, included Donald Woolough, administrative assistant to Assemblyman Joseph M. Margiotta, chairman of the Republican Committees of Nassau County and the Town of Hempstead. [1:2-4.]

The city Department of Investigation said that it had received allegations of bribery in the leasing of the Bronx Terminal Market to the Arol Development Corporation and that the city's former Economic Development administrator, Ken Patton, had signed the lease over the opposition of the economic agency's counsel, whose warnings were said to have been verified. [1:4-5.]

Quotation of the Day

"My strongly held view is that there is no instant solution to the problems of Northern Ireland."—Merlyn Rees, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, announcing British plans to run the province indefinitely. [1:1.]

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