

News Summary and Index

NYTimes

SATURDAY, MARCH 20, 1976

MAR 2 0 1976

The Major Events of the Day

International

Princess Margaret of Britain and her husband, Lord Snowdon, whose courtship before their marriage nearly 16 years ago attracted worldwide attention, are separating, according to a statement yesterday from Kensington Palace in London, the home of the Princess. The statement said that the Princess would carry out her public duties and functions unaccompanied by Lord Snowdon, and there were no plans for divorce proceedings. [Page 1, Columns 1-4.]

Negotiations between the Rhodesian Government and black nationalists were broken off and both sides called on Britain to resolve their dispute. [1:5.]

National

With a rise in the Consumer Price Index of only one-tenth of 1 percent, consumer prices made the smallest advance in February in more than four years, the Labor Department said. A decline in meat prices, which may not continue, was said to have been responsible for the slight increase. However, economists do not expect inflation to proceed at that negligible rate and they believe that future months will not bring such good news. [1:8.]

The United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia ruled that the Environmental Protection Agency may order reductions of lead in gasoline to prevent potential but not fully proved public health hazards. The court appeared to uphold the agency's authority to regulate a broad range of environmental issues where danger to health seemed likely even though the danger had not been scientifically proved. The E.P.A. may now enforce regulations, first issued in 1973, requiring the gradual reduction of lead in gasoline. [1:4.]

The jury in Patricia Hearst's bank robbery trial began deliberations, trying to decide whether she willingly participated in the holdup or acted under coercion and in fear of death. The key question, Judge Oliver J. Carter told the jurors in Federal District Court in San Francisco, is whether the defendant was a willing participant in the robbery of the Sunset branch of the Hibernia Bank there in April 1974. [1:2-3.]

The Justice Department has instructed the Federal Bureau of Investigation to undertake a more extensive inquiry than the F.B.I.

Metropolitan

Consumer prices in the New York-Northeast New Jersey area were more stable in February than they have been over the last four years, the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics said. On a basis that eliminated seasonal changes, the New York Area Price Index of Consumer Goods and Services declined 0.1 percent, which, taking into account the index's margin for error, is equivalent to virtually no change. Herbert Blenslock, the regional commissioner of the bureau, said. The cost of medical care was the only component of the index that showed a noticeable rise. [1:6-7.]

The Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America and the Textile Workers Union of America, two major unions in the apparel and textile industries, reached agreement on plans for a merger into a single union with more than 500,000 members. The agreement is subject to ratification by delegates to conventions of both unions in Washington starting May 31. [1:6.]

The two young daughters of Seward Prosser Mellon, the Pittsburgh banker who is an heir to the Mellon empire, were abducted by three men as the girls left their Brooklyn home for school with their bodyguards. The children have been involved in a custody fight between Mr. Mellon and his former wife, Karen Leigh Boyd Mellon. They were reported to be somewhere in Pennsylvania with their father. [1:5-8.]

The Union Carbide Corporation, the country's second largest chemical manufacturer, announced that it would move its headquarters from the 50-story building at 270 Park Avenue to Danbury, Conn., ending two years of deliberations on the move and overriding appeals from Mayor Beame, Gov. Rockefeller and the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. The company remains in Manhattan. The move will take three or four years to complete. [1:1-3.]

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Quotation of the Day

"Behind a facade of bravado she is very nervous."
—F. Lee Bailey, describing Patricia Hearst. [24:1.]

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