

The Major Events of the Day

International

Despite the start of a 10-day truce in Lebanon yesterday, fighting continued in Beirut and the countryside. The radio during the day reported 30 to 40 kidnappings. The Parliament building in Beirut has been damaged and looted and Kamal Assad, the Speaker of Parliament, was trying to find another meeting place for the 99 deputies who have to elect a new President during the truce period. The leading Presidential candidates are Raymond Eddé, the son of a former President, and Elias Sarkis, governor of the Bank of Lebanon. [Page 1, Col. 5.]

National

The Labor Department said that employment rose in March by 375,000 new jobs, bringing the number of employed persons to 7,027,000. This lowered the March unemployment rate to 7.5 percent from 7.6 percent in February. March was the fifth consecutive month in which the unemployment rate declined. [1:8.]

Secretary of Labor W. J. Usery Jr. said that a "significant breakthrough" had been made in the bargaining for a new contract to end the trucking strike. He and Frank E. Fitzsimmons, president of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, said that two trucking industry groups had agreed to sign a contract that comes close to meeting the original union demands. [1:4.]

Ronald Reagan defended his use of unverifiable quotations attributed to Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger and said that President Ford's criticism of their use was unjustified. He also repeated a challenge to debate foreign policy issues with Mr. Ford, who had rejected the proposal. [1:7.]

President Ford said that Ronald Reagan's criticism of his defense policy was "built on misleading statements" and embellished by quotations that were "a fabrication, an invention." At a meeting with leaders of 42 ethnic organizations in Milwaukee, Mr. Ford made the most direct political attack on his rival for the Republican Presidential nomination, reflecting a change in strategy meant to blunt the impact of Mr. Reagan's televised speeches on national security. [1:6.]

The House voted 246 to 33 to reform the scandal-ridden grain-inspection system. Another and different reform measure is pending in the Senate Agriculture Committee. The House bill provides for Federal con-

trol of the inspection and weighing of grain at export terminals and sharply increased penalties for violations of the United States Grain Standards Act. The bill would also eliminate about 20 privately operated grain-inspection agencies at grain ports and give the responsibility to the Government. Representative Thomas Harkin, Democrat of Iowa, was one of the legislators who thought the bill was not tough enough. He said "It's a Band-Aid on a gaping wound." [1:6-7.]

Metropolitan

The State Emergency Financial Control Board is likely to demand some modifications in the new transit contract because of its implications for other city unions. Officially everyone was saying that no decisions had been reached and that the matter was under study, but knowledgeable observers predicted that some action would be taken to hold down costs when the city unions' contracts expire next June 30. [1:1.]

Pinball machines banned here in 1942 by Mayor Fiorello H. La Guardia except in amusement arcades may soon be legalized in hotels, bars, theaters and other designated places under a bill approved by the City Council's Consumer Affairs Committee. The bill is expected to be passed by the full Council. [1:2-5.]

Frank D. Gilroy, the playwright, won a verdict worth more than \$1 million and a victory for writers seeking to protect their work, because a television network, a production company and two publishers had based books on a television character he had created without his permission. The character was Amos Burke, a homicide detective, who was the hero of a television series called "Burke's Law." Mr. Gilroy said he had sold only television rights to Amos Burke, and retained publishing rights. [1:3.]

The Federal Government praised Governor Carey for the money-saving Medicaid reforms he signed into law last week, but warned that some of them continue to violate Federal regulations in a way that might cause them to be overturned in court. But officials at the State Department of Social Services said that only one of the Federal objections might require changes in the Medicaid Law passed by the Legislature two weeks ago as part of a package to save the state \$122.5 million in Medicaid costs. [1:1.]

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Quotation of the Day

"We're talking here about games of skill, not chance. Anyone operating a pinball machine won't be gambling. He would enjoy a game of skill for relaxation and leisure." — Councilman Eugene F. Mastropieri, sponsor of a bill in the City Council to allow pinball machines to be placed in bars, hotels, theaters and other designated areas. [42:5.]

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News Analysis

CORRECTION

Pictures of a group of women with a new hairdo called the "Wedge" were transposed in The New York Times yesterday. The correct identities in the lower panel of pictures, from left to right, are Carolyn Olmher, Ann Benedetto, Mary Earle, Pat Shea, Joan Weitzen and Joan Rubenstein.