

The Major Events of the Day

International

South African police opened fire at least twice when Soweto students challenged a security cordon as they headed for Johannesburg to protest the detention of students arrested seven weeks ago. A Johannesburg newspaper said police bullets caused at least three deaths, but the police commissioner, acknowledging 13 casualties, said the only known fatality was a black man with a broken neck. The students succeeded in barring most of the black suburb's commuters to Johannesburg. [Page 1, Column 1.]

The Sudanese Government radio announced the execution of 81 people convicted of taking part in the July 2 attempt to overthrow President Gaafar al-Nimeiry. The court found the accused had received military training "in a foreign state." Both Mr. Nimeiry and President Anwar el-Sadat of Egypt have accused Libya of helping in the coup attempt. Libyan officials have denied the charge against their country. [1:1.]

The United States and West Germany have agreed on a common gun and engine for their new main battle tanks, in a major step toward standardizing weapons among the Atlantic allies. Before the United States XM-1 tank goes into production, its turret will be redesigned to handle either a 105-millimeter gun or the 120-millimeter guns developed in West Germany and under development in Britain. [1:2-4.]

Lord Thompson of Fleet, who rose from poverty in Canada to build a vast publishing empire, crowned by ownership of both The Times of London and The Sunday Times, died in London at the age of 82. [1:3.]

National

The Senate Government Operations Committee approved a bill that would end nearly all Government spending programs that fail to win specific approval over a five-year review cycle. The so-called "sunset" bill, whose chief sponsor is Senator Edmund S. Muskie, chairman of the new Senate Committee, corresponds to Jimmy Carter's "zero-based budgeting." Enactment this year is considered doubtful but not impossible. [1:2.]

Pennsylvania public health pressed their laboratory search for an unidentified organism whose death toll rose to 22 persons who

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Metropolitan

New York City's municipal hospitals remained open with curtailed services on the first day of the first systemwide walkout of 18,000 nonmedical workers over the issue of layoffs. There were scattered reports of violence as the picket lines were set up, and at least three arrests. There were no new discussions between the striking union and the city administration. [1:8.]

The New York State Legislature, called into special session by Governor Carey, was preparing to pass a compromise reorganization plan for the state courts. It includes centralized court administration, a four-year state takeover of all local court costs, and appointment, replacing election, to the Court of Appeals. With bipartisan support, passage was expected to be uneventful after a meeting Tuesday night of the Governor legislative leaders, and Chief Judge Charles D. Breitel of the Court of Appeals agreed on a package proposal. [1:6-7.]

Quotation of the Day

"I'm at a loss for words. These people are great. Somehow or other it shows this city is going to make it."
 —Mayor Beame, commenting on Harlem residents who went to the aid of policemen attacked with lye last Saturday. [This page, column 5.]

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