

News Summary and Index

NTTimes THURSDAY, AUGUST 19, 1976 AUG 19 1976

The Major Events of the Day

Republican Convention

Gerald R. Ford, in an ebullient mood, was proposed to the Republican National Convention by Gov. William E. Milliken of Michigan as "the present and future President." The final delegate tabulation by The New York Times before the roll-call raised his margin over Ronald Reagan to 49 votes, with 12 dihardards remaining uncommitted. Mr. Ford kept his choice of a running mate secret, scheduling an evening meeting with Mr. Reagan to discuss the subject. There was no sign that their hard-fought contest would leave a legacy of bitterness. Mr. Reagan declined to accept the offer of Senator Richard S. Schweiker of Pennsylvania to withdraw from his slate. [Page 1, Col. 1-8.]

John P. Sears, who managed Ronald Reagan's national campaign, said a few hours before the final vote that very small items—mistakes, misunderstandings, misinterpretations—had brought the nine-month campaign to the point where victory seemed beyond reach. The final unexpected twist, he said, was the Mississippi delegation's vote not to support Mr. Reagan's crucial floor fight for a rules change concerning the Vice-Presidential selection. [1:6-7.]

Some of President Ford's closest advisers are urging a strategy of provocation against Jimmy Carter in the Presidential race and say they will "wipe that smile off his face." Their assumption is that the Democratic nominee is vague, self-righteous and short-tempered, and that sharp attacks on his integrity and credibility can rattle him. These advisers would put former Gov. John B. Connally of Texas in charge of the Republican campaign, citing his mastery of political ridicule and sarcasm. [1:5.]

International

North Korean soldiers wielding axes and metal pikes attacked a group of American and South Korean soldiers in the demilitarized zone, killing two American officers and wounding four American enlisted men and five South Korean soldiers. The United Nations Command said the soldiers had routinely been trimming branches from a tree at the Panmunjom truce site near the south end of the bridge used for prisoner exchange after the Korean war. In Kansas City, President Ford condemned the attack and said the North Korean Government would be responsible for the "consequences."

The North Korean radio said American troops had attacked North Korean soldiers protesting the tree-trimming. [1:1.]

Faced with a United Nations ultimatum expiring at the end of the month, a constitutional committee in South-West Africa announced plans for a multiracial government to lead the territory to independence from South Africa by Dec. 31, 1978. The statement issued in Windhoek, the territorial capital, did not mention the South-West Africa People's Organization, which the United Nations recognizes as representative of its people but which did not take part in the discussions. Nor was there any reference to elections, called for in the ultimatum. [1:4.]

Survivors of the Mindanao earthquake and tidal wave told of being swept out to sea and back in the disaster that left 3,103 in the Philippines dead and 2,282 missing. The National Disaster Coordinating Center said the death toll might reach 5,000. [1:2.]

National

The Securities and Exchange Commission, the Federal Maritime Administration and at least one Congressional committee are investigating whether the Burnham Oil Company, a major British concern, illegally received Federal guarantees or subsidies to build at least eight huge tankers in this country. The possibility of fraud in seeking Federal backing, illegal for foreign companies, may be jeopardizing hundreds of millions of dollars in contracts for the ships under construction at the yards of the General Dynamics Corporation in Quincy, Mass., and thousands of jobs. [1:2-3.]

Metropolitan

The Danish widow of an actor killed in a Greenwich Village stabbing last June faces deportation on the grounds that she lacks United States residency requirements because, in the words of immigration officials, "the marriage no longer exists." Sus McReady, married 11 months, had been awaiting approval of her application for permanent residency when her husband, Tom, was killed. [1:3.]

The New York City Police Department's 911 emergency telephone number system is being flooded by a record number of calls. The department, citing dwindling manpower, says it cannot handle them as fast as it would like—a situation that includes incidents involving youth gangs. [1:6-8.]

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Quotation of the Day

"It was one thing for them to sit in an office in Des Moines or wherever and keep telling us on the phone they were still uncommitted. But it was another thing for them to be here, to be taken on the tour of the real Presidential suite and to face the moment of truth."—Peter Roussel, one of Mr. Ford's delegate scouts, explaining why uncommitted delegates finally sided with the President. [27:7.]

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CORRECTION

It was erroneously reported in The Times yesterday that the Brooklyn Philharmonia would play at Cadman Park Plaza in Brooklyn tonight. The concert is scheduled for 7:30 tomorrow night.