

# News Summary

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## International

Following a Palestinian refusal to negotiate, Syrian and Lebanese Christian forces opened a new attack on the Palestinian forces near Beirut. At stake in the battle is a ridge that would complete the encirclement of the Moslem section of Beirut. The Palestinians reportedly refused a Syrian demand that they withdraw and return to refugee camps. [Page 1, Column 6.]

An appeal from Moscow for the withdrawal of Syrian troops from Lebanon has been rejected by President Hafez al-Assad. A close aide to the President said the appeal had come directly from Leonid I. Brezhnev, the Communist Party leader. He said there was nothing to confirm a report that the Russians had reduced or had threatened to reduce aid to Syria. [4:3.]

Most West German campaigning ended with a burst of bitter words and rosy statistics broadcast in a nearly four-hour TV debate among leaders of the four main parties. The election tomorrow is expected to be a tight battle between Chancellor Helmut Schmidt, a Social Democrat, and Helmut Kohl, the Christian Democratic leader. [6:4-5.]

## National

A restriction on the use of Medicaid funds for abortions was blocked by Federal judges only hours after the bill containing the restrictions had become law. The judges, in New York City and in Washington, issued temporary restraining orders and the judge in New York said he would rule within 20 days on the granting of a preliminary injunction barring implementation of the restriction until a court decision on its constitutionality. [1:2.]

Terminally ill persons received the right to authorize the withdrawal of life-sustaining procedures under a California law signed by Gov. Edmund G. Brown. The controversial law, which was supported by the state's medical

association and many other civic and religious groups, has strict guidelines to insure that the patient is both competent to make the authorization and is indeed terminally ill. [1:3-4.]

Agriculture Secretary Earl L. Butz was severely reprimanded by President Ford for making "highly offensive" racial remarks. Ron Nessen, the White House spokesman, said Mr. Butz would make a public apology for the remarks. The incident stemmed from a published report of a joke Mr. Butz had made about black voters while on an airliner. [1:5.]

Jimmy Carter moved to bring his campaign back to its original roots in a series of speeches. The Democratic candidate mixed an attack on Presidents Ford and Nixon—accusing them of inflicting great harm on America—with his affirmation of the country's ability to survive if he is elected. The speeches were said to be the result of a strategy session in Plains, Ga., in which the candidate and his aides decided what the campaign needed was Jimmy Carter being himself. [1:4-6.]

The F.B.I. investigation into alleged campaign financing irregularities involving President Ford has been completed and a report is being prepared that shows no substantial evidence that would support criminal charges, according to Government sources. The report must be reviewed by the Watergate special prosecutor. [1:3-4.]

## Metropolitan

Off-duty police officers demonstrated at City Hall in protest against the Beame administration's refusal to grant them deferred raises and better work schedules. The Police Department announced that six police officers would receive disciplinary hearings for allegedly being disorderly in earlier demonstrations. [1:1.]

The policemen's union will not be able to get anything more from New York City than they have been offered and turned down, the leaders of other public employee unions believe. They also said that someone in the union has to tell this to the rank and file; that all the other unions had agreed to the wage-increase deferral the police officers are trying to break and that it would be dangerous politically for any other union leader if the policemen won their point. [40:2-3.]

A "saddened" Police Commissioner stood in the rain outside City Hall being booed by demonstrating members of his department. After the demonstration, the Commissioner, Michael J. Codd, said that the recent protests and disorders by off-duty police officers had eroded public respect for the department. [1:1-2.]

A movie scheduled to be shown tonight at the New York Film Festival was ordered withdrawn by Customs officials, who declared it obscene. Festival officials protested the order for the removal and confiscation of the Japanese film, "In the Realm of the Senses," but said it would not be shown. [1:2.]

## Business/Finance

A major policy shift in the strategic stockpile program was announced by the Federal Government. The new policy is aimed at assuring a three-year, instead of the previous one-year, supply of critical materials in event of a major war. [31:1.]

The largest merger proposed in the nation's history will not be challenged by the Justice Department. After weighing whether such a merger might have an anticompetitive impact on the nuclear-steam supply market, the department announced it would not contest the General Electric Company's projected \$2 billion acquisition of Utah International Inc. [31:5.]

Stock prices suffered their largest one-week decline of 1976. The Dow Jones industrial average dropped 10.30 points to 979.89, to register a decline of nearly 30 points for the week. [31:6.] Corn, wheat and soybean prices fell under pressure of hedge selling. [37:3-4.]

# Index

## International

- Strike call evokes spotty response in Madrid 2
- Business good in Libya, but difficult Rhodesian Bishop sentenced to 10 years in prison 3
- Lisbon acts to curb Communist role in labor 3
- Two black Rhodesian leaders meet in attempt at unity 3
- Ford and Gromyko discuss arms curb 4
- Soviet conciliatory toward China 6
- China quietly observes its national day 6
- Pound's decline vexes British Labor 6
- South Korean C.I.A. extends activities in U.S. 6

## Government/Politics

- Congress edges toward adjournment 7
- Record number retiring from Congress 8
- Dole calls Carter campaign "weird" 10
- Georgia company says Carter was guest at its resort 10
- Northeast governors meet with Carter 10
- Buckley stressing elderly vote 13
- Humphrey to have cancer surgery 38

## General

- Hurricane kills 214 in Lower California 3
- Around the Nation 8
- U.S. judge delays ruling against N.A.A.C.P. 8
- New York City wins crime-fund-cut delay 26
- Change of venue sought in Bolles murder trial 28
- Metropolitan Briefs 29
- Talks held on opening Bronx hospital 29
- Ohrenstein campaigns on Long Island 29
- Catskill rail line shuts down 29
- 12 charged in food stamp fraud 29
- Policeman's family pickets with him 39
- Policemen voice sympathy with demonstrators 39

## Industry/Labor

- Fire and police strike ends in Youngstown 9

## Health/Science

- First swine flu shots are given 8
- No organic compounds found on Mars 38
- Urologists to operate on Humphrey 38

## Amusements/Arts

- Yass Hakoshima gives mime program 13
- Loft jazz players move uptown to Recital Hall 14
- Bill De Young's dancers perform "Ancient Rooms, Passing Ruins" 14
- "In the Realm of the Senses," Japanese film, previewed 14
- "Jonah Who Will Be 25" shown at film festival 15
- First 35-mm. print of Visconti's "Osessione" at festival 15
- "Diamonds" is not the moviegoer's best friend 15
- "Heaven Grand," campy rock musical, is at La Mama 15
- Biography of Julian Grenfell by Nicholas Mosley is reviewed 23

## Family/Style

- Excitement at the vineyards 16
- Little furniture show that grew 16
- Popular belief about sex disputed 16

## Obituaries

- William Zeckendorf, real estate dealer 28
- Richard Joseph, travel writer 28

## Business/Finance

- Store refunds sought by 57,000 31
- Fraud charged in Burmah aid 31
- Red Apple chain becoming a super-market empire 31
- Auto makers notify dealers about spare tires 31
- Patents of the Week: Signature Verification 31
- Personal Finance: Credit-card authorization computerized 32
- Factory orders off by 0.8 percent for August 32
- Pound, at \$1.6670, ends worst-ever week 33
- Dictaphone seeks shares of Data Documents 33

## Quotations of the Day

"The viewers will see through your arrogance—it's a scandal the way you've run your campaign."—Helmut Kohl, leader of the West German Christian Democrats. [6:4.]

"If anyone has embittered the campaign, it's you with your shameless slogan, 'fighting for freedom against Socialism.' You started it."—Chancellor Helmut Schmidt replying to Mr. Kohl during a debate. [6:4.]

- Mojave Indians get \$2.3 million Prudential loan 33
- A. & P. to buy 63 National Tea stores in Chicago 37

	Page		Page
Amer. Exchange	36	Market Indicators	34
Bond Sales	35	Money	37
Commodities	37	Mutual Funds	30
Corp. Affairs	37	N.Y. Stock Exch.	34
Foreign Exchange	37	Out-of-Town	37
Highs and Lows	32	Over the Counter	30

## Sports

- Marlboro a weighty test for Forego 18
- Ali proclaims his retirement 19
- Robinson weighs Indian offer 19
- Knicks trade Denton to Hawks 19
- Giants plan first lineup change 19
- January cards 68-134 in rain 19
- Conflicts with religion protested 20
- Jets stress punt-return speed 20
- Barnes decides to report to Pistons 21
- Ohio State, U.C.L.A. clash today 22

## Features/Notes

- Notes on People 11
- Going Out Guide 14
- About New York 23
- Weekly News Quiz 23

## News Analysis

- Steven R. Weisman on Beame and the police 42

## Editorials/Comment

- Editorials and Letters 24
- Russell Baker: Why old Pharaoh is leery of the press 25
- William Shannon: Liberalism's stake in the election 25
- Smith Simpson examines the state of U.S. diplomacy 25
- James Reston Jr. discusses Carter's views on amnesty 25