

News Summary

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International

Thailand's free Government fell in a coup by military leaders. The officers seized power hours after university students and policemen fought bloody battles in which 30 persons were reported killed and hundreds wounded. More than 1,700 students were arrested. In a national broadcast, the Defense Minister announced that the 1974 Constitution had been abolished, a curfew would be enforced and all newspapers and periodicals were banned. [Page 1, Column 6.]

All 73 persons aboard were killed, officials said, when a Cuban passenger jet plunged into the Caribbean Sea off the Barbados capital of Bridgetown. The pilot had been trying to return to Barbados after an explosion occurred on the plane. Vessels that rushed to the crash site found only wreckage and bodies. [1:5.]

The Soviet MIG-25 that was flown to Japan a month ago by a defecting pilot was initially hailed in Pentagon circles as an "intelligence windfall." After weeks of analysis, Defense Department experts have concluded that the craft lags behind American fighter planes in advanced technology and is no match for them in speed or maneuverability. [6:1.]

Guarded by hundreds of Israeli soldiers, 3,000 Jews buried desecrated Torah scrolls and other Jewish holy books in the tense West Bank city of Hebron. Arab residents stayed in their homes under a curfew imposed after Arab outbreaks and vandalism by Arabs and Jews at an ancient Herodian shrine sacred to Moslems and Jews. [3:1.]

National

President Ford and Jimmy Carter traded verbal thrusts in reply to reporters' questions as they prepared for their

confrontation in San Francisco in their second Presidential debate. The Democratic candidate suggested that Mr. Ford should apologize to blacks for racist remarks made by Earl Butz, who resigned as Agriculture Secretary. Mr. Ford suggested that Mr. Carter recall his earlier comment about ethnic purity. [1:1-2.]

Ford Motor Company employees prepared to vote on a tentative three-year contract that was generally characterized as a "toe in the door" to a four-day workweek. It was understood that the accord would, in effect, give Ford workers a four-day week five times in 1977-78 and seven times in 1978-79. Ratification that would end the 22-day walkout is expected to take a week to 10 days. [1:3-4.]

A new security and classification system for secret Congressional documents was proposed by the House Ethics Committee. The panel made the request to Congress in a final report on its inquiry of the disclosure to Daniel Schorr, a former CBS correspondent, of a report by the House Select Committee on Intelligence Operations. [20:3-6.]

A national debate is increasing over liquefied natural gas, paralleling the debate over nuclear safety. Around the country, officials and specialists are seeking workable guidelines to protect the public from conceivable disasters in docking LNG tankers from abroad and storing the gas. Large-scale imports of the highly condensed gas are believed inevitable in the view of many utility executives to avert what they foresee as disruptive shortages in energy supplies. [1:1-3.]

Metropolitan

The day-care program in New York City has been wasting more than \$37 million a year, according to a state

audit. The inquiry by Comptroller Arthur Levitt charged that the centers were underused, children were too often absent and staffs were required to have too many employees who were overly qualified. [1:4.]

Senator James L. Buckley used a section of the Federal Communications Act to force WNET-TV and seven other public education TV stations in New York State to run political commercials for the first time. Officials of Channel 13 reluctantly agreed to broadcast a five-minute Buckley commercial Sunday evening for \$1,000 under a threat to the station's license. [1:1.]

Business/Finance

The Federal Power Commission, after months of intense debate, voted tentatively to grant electric utilities a small fraction of financial relief they had asked for building generating facilities not yet in service. The decision was a victory for 22 million senior citizens whose case was argued before the commissioners by Rose Kryzak, 75-year-old vice president of the Queens Council of Senior Citizens, one of many consumer representatives who opposed the proposal. [65:1-2.]

The price of copper suddenly dropped 4 cents a pound. Phelps Dodge led the action with an announcement that it was cutting its price for whole plate electrolytic copper cathodes to 70 cents a pound. The price cut was unexpected because of a Government announcement Friday that it planned to rebuild its stockpile of most raw materials it holds for wartime and other emergency needs. [65:4.]

The stock market continued its downturn in more active trading amid worries over the slowness in the economic recovery. The Dow Jones industrial average dropped 7.07 points to 959.69. In the last eight sessions the index has lost 49.62 points. [65:6.] Credit prices rose steeply in active trading amid a growing expectation that the Federal Reserve would allow short-term interest rates to fall. [66:5.] Commodity futures, including wheat, corn and potatoes, rose, with soybean prices making a gain of 8 cents a bushel. [76:4-6.]

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"It was a rough weekend. But I'm on the upbeat now."—Former Secretary of Agriculture Earl L. Butz, referring to his decision to resign. [18:3.]

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