

News Summary

NYTimes

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International

A conference on Rhodesia will be held in Geneva in two weeks in an effort to set up a transitional government leading to black rule for the country, Foreign Secretary Anthony Crosland of Britain announced. The names of those who will attend were expected to be announced next week. It was presumed that Prime Minister Ian D. Smith of Rhodesia and several of the country's black leaders would take part in the meeting. [Page 1, Column 3.]

All demands for participation in the Arab boycott made on or after Oct. 7 will have to be made available for public scrutiny under new rules issued by the Commerce Department. All companies that receive such demands must report it within 15 days and say whether or not they will comply with the demands. [1:1-3.]

The military junta that seized control of Thailand on Wednesday announced that a civilian had been named as Prime Minister. The naming of Thanin Kraivichien, a Supreme Court justice, to head the government was accompanied by the announcement that the military planned to step aside within two weeks after a cabinet had been formed and the situation in the country stabilized. [3:4-6.]

Ending its refusal to take part in Cabinet-level Soviet-American commissions, the United States proposed last month that a joint commerce commission convene in Washington in two weeks. High Administration officials said, however, that the Soviet Union had not responded to the proposal and that there was a possibility that it would wait until after the election to do so. [3:2-3.]

Britain's Conservative Party ended its annual conference hoping for an early return to power and buoyed by the closing speech of the party leader, Margaret Thatcher. In a hard-hitting address, Mrs. Thatcher said the Labor

Party had impoverished and failed the nation. Despite the Conservatives' newfound enthusiasm, however, party members saw little prospect of an early general election. [3:2-4.]

National

Unemployment fell slightly during September, according to the last Labor Department report on unemployment before the Nov. 2 election. The drop to 7.8 percent of the labor force from 7.9 percent did not, the department said, reflect any basic change in the employment picture. [1:6.]

In a harsh attack on President Ford, Jimmy Carter called on him to "tell the truth" about Administration policies and his personal finances. He asked Mr. Ford to explain how he lived on \$5 a week in 1972, as a reported Internal Revenue Service audit said he had. He also called for clarifications in Mr. Ford's policies on Eastern Europe and the Arab boycott. [1:1.]

President Ford attempted twice to explain what he had meant in his second debate with Jimmy Carter in his statement on Soviet dominance of Eastern Europe, but he left persistent confusion rather than putting the controversy to rest. Mr. Ford also attacked Jimmy Carter, saying that he had been evasive and untruthful during the debate, and portraying him as a heavy-spending liberal. [1:2.]

One of the nine black "Scottsboro boys," who spent 15 years in prison—five on death row—on never-proven charges of having raped two white women, applied for a full pardon from a 1946 Alabama parole violation. Clarence (Willie) Norris, a New York City warehouseman, said he was tired of being a fugitive. Although his application has the support of Alabama's Attorney General, the State Parole Board chairman said the pardon could not be granted as long as Mr. Norris remained a fugitive. [1:4-6.]

Metropolitan

A high-ranking police officer prevented a group of about 300 demonstrating off-duty officers from marching into Wall Street by thrusting himself into the path of their march. The action by Assistant Chief Charles E. McCarthy was one of the most forceful by a superior officer in the two weeks of protests by the police. [1:5.]

A \$1.2 billion financing plan for the completion of three sewage treatment projects was announced by the city. Mayor Beame said the projects, under an agreement with both the Federal and state governments, would provide 14,000 jobs in the construction and allied industries and increase the city's gross product by \$3 billion. [1:4.]

El Salvador's third-highest official was convicted in Manhattan of conspiracy in an attempt to sell 10,000 submachine guns to undercover agents posing as gangsters. Col. Manuel Alfonso Rodriguez lost his position as chief of staff of El Salvador's military after his arrest last May. [9:1-2.]

Business/Finance

After a month in which their stores were open Sundays, major retailers reported that they had increased their volume between 3 and 5 percent in what otherwise would have been a dismal September. More than 70 major department stores and specialty stores, as well as more than 1,000 smaller shops, have been doing business on Sundays since Aug. 29. [27:4.]

The Federal Reserve is encouraging banks to maintain artificially high interest rates that are seriously damaging the economic recovery, according to Representative Henry S. Reuss, the chairman of the House Banking Committee. The Wisconsin Democrat cited the spread between the rates at which banks borrow money and then relend. The Reserve disputed the charge. [27:5.]

Stock prices resumed a plunge that have carried them to their lowest levels since mid-February. The Dow Jones industrial average lost 12.71 points to close at 952.38. [27:6.] Commodity prices moved down after four days of increases under the impact of profit taking. [31:1.]

Index

International

Talk of Erzurum: an intrusive present	2
New Swedish Premier presents his Cabinet	3
Tories end conference in a confident mood	3
Portuguese angered by Ford's statement in debate	4
Vorster rejects demand by blacks	4
China's population put at 853 million	4
Factions in Lebanon try again for accord	5
Half of world's people reported to live in four lands	5

Government/Politics

Dean, in book, further implicates Nixon	6
Detroit Mayor's future linked to police reform	6
Mondale prepares for debate with Dole	8
Change in character seen in debate	8
Butz makes a political appearance	8
Consumers accuse banks of denying data	22

General

Around the Nation	6
Small beer breweries fight for survival	6
Government joins N.A.A.C.P. in appeal	6
Goodwin and the Esquire rebuttal	17
Alleged 1969 plane hijacker arraigned in Brooklyn	20
New York Boys' Club marks 100 years	21
Philadelphians aid ailing hotel	21
Jewish youths denounce Rumanian Orthodox bishop	22
Metropolitan Briefs	23
Murder trial of L.I. physician begins	23
200 Rikers Island guards force Bronx prisoners into cells	23
State auditing Erie County records	23
Steamboat to cruise up the Hudson	23

Celebrated ex-convict is sought in Coast stabbing 25

Health/Science

City cancels nursing-home flu plan 16

Amusements/Arts

"Scorchy," a melodrama with Connie Stevens, on screen	9
Ballet Folklorico of Mexico presents three premieres	9
Peter Allen sings at Bottom Line	9
"Fighting Mad" is new film at neighborhood theaters	9
"Dance Uptown" is host to Concert Dance Company	9
Thousands go to Korvettes to see Vladimir Horowitz	10
"Strongman Ferdinand" at film festival	10
Jazz series for children over 10	10
"Margaret Mitchell's 'Gone With the Wind' Letters" is reviewed	17
No other candidates follow Buckley on public-TV ads	37

Family/Style

European youths enjoy spirit of the open road	24
Hall of Fame fashion exhibition has intimate charm	24

Business/Finance

Britain's bid to rescue pound raises some questions	27
Dollar up in Europe; pound retreats	27
Iraq oil industry set for sweeping changes	27
Bankers Trust dropping Keogh plan	27
Larger cargo share seen for Soviet bloc shipping	27
Packaging machine to speed mail delivery is patented	28
McNamara sees easing in World Bank interest rates	29
Bonn urged to step up economic recovery	29
Mexican devaluation expected to cut Monsanto net \$10 million	31
Congoleum offers \$153 million for Universal Leaf	34

Page	Page
Amer. Exchange...33	Highs and Lows...28
Bond Sales.....32	Market Indicators 30
Business Records.31	Money.....31
Commodities....31	Mutual Funds...26
Corp. Affairs....31	N.Y. Stock Exch...30
Dividends.....33	Out-of-Town....31
Foreign Exchange.31	Over the Counter.26

Quotation of the Day

"Under Labor the land of hope and glory has become the land of beg and borrow."—Margaret Thatcher, leader of Britain's Conservative Party, speaking at the party's annual conference. [3:2.]

Sports

Surprises mark college football	12
Royals shuffle lineup for playoffs	13
Gullett to open playoff for Reds	13
New stadium is praised by Giants	13
Wingo is dropped by Knicks	13
Quick Pay takes Kentucky Futurity	16
Ruffian draws small, but select field	16
Irwin, Graham win in Picadilly golf	16

Features/Notes

Man in the News: Ivor Seward Richard	4
Going Out Guide	11
Weekly News Quiz	17
Notes on People	25
About New York	36

News Analysis

James T. Wooten on Carter's growing confidence	8
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Editorials/Comment

Editorials and Letters	18
Russell Baker samples the mail bag of Dr. Hypocrites	19
William Shannon on need to overcome black apathy	19
David Dellinger sees radicals gathering strength	19
John Roche assails "burlesque" of radical movement	19
John Allen: I killed your cat this morning	19

CORRECTION

An article in The Times on Sept. 25, relating to the collapse of the American Bank and Trust Company erroneously described an outstanding loan to the Arlen Realty and Development Corporation as having been classified as substandard by Federal Reserve examiners. The reference was to a previous loan, which was repaid.