

News Summary

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International

Some Vietnamese refugees in Thailand are planning a 3,000-mile voyage in fishing boats to Australia because they have little hope of any other way to a new life in a Western country. Escape from Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia is increasingly difficult, and countries that have been accepting refugees are increasingly reluctant to do so. [Page 1, Columns, 2-4.]

Syria will relax discriminatory restrictions against 4,500 Syrian Jews, Representative Stephen J. Solarz, Democrat of Brooklyn, said he was told during a Middle East trip last month. He was also told, he added, that there had been no change in Syria's adamant refusal to let Jews emigrate to the United States or Israel. [3:1-2.]

President-elect Carter has informed President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing of France that he agrees in principle with the latter's proposal for a summit meeting among Western economic powers, but no time or place has been set. The State Department disclosed this, adding that the message indicated Mr. Carter wanted the meeting no sooner than mid year. [6:1.]

National

A proposed regulation to eliminate a major tax shelter enjoyed by builders was ordered withdrawn by Treasury Secretary William E. Simon hours after its issuance by the Internal Revenue Service. It was not seen beforehand by Mr. Simon or the Department of Housing and Urban Development, although it was approved by an aide to Mr. Simon. Housing interests applied intense pressure against the proposed new regulation. [1:1.]

A Federal grand jury in Miami has concluded that intelligence agents of the Internal Revenue Service did not violate the civil rights of taxpayers during a

highly publicized "sex and drinking" investigation. The grand jury criticized the press—and The Miami News specifically—for not exercising greater care in a series of articles published early in 1975. [1:5-6.]

Senate Democrats gave Hubert H. Humphrey of Minnesota the new post of Deputy President pro tem of the Senate with entrée to White House leadership meetings, a \$7,400 pay raise and a chauffeured limousine. The same privileges were recommended for other former Vice Presidents or Presidents of the United States who later take a seat in the Senate. [11:1-6.]

Evidence linking cancer to the environment seemed strengthened by a new atlas showing regional variances in cancer-death rates among nonwhites. The atlas, published by the National Cancer Institute, is a companion to one put out in 1975 showing such pattern among whites. [18:4-5.]

Metropolitan

Governor Carey asked the New York Legislature for a \$200 million cut in the state's personal income tax to be coupled with cuts in state spending. He also sought a \$750 million bond issue to finance job-producing construction projects. He urged the Legislature to "fundamentally reshape and reduce the cost and scope of government. [1:6:]

Gov. Ella T. Grasso of Connecticut called for a restructuring of state government including a consolidated and reorganized system of higher education and single agencies for budget planning and for revenue-producing activities. Addressing the opening session of the General Assembly, she asked for lower business taxes to encourage the economic recovery that has already begun in the state. [1:4.]

Mayor Beame's plan for meeting next year's New York City budget deficit of at least \$585 million is to raise the

real estate tax, press for increased Federal and state assistance and reduce the work force by 8,200, including 1,500 police officers, but without resort to layoffs. These and other actions are scheduled to be announced today. [1:1.]

A substitute teacher in Brooklyn's Ocean Hill-Brownsville area, William L. Carr, was indicted on charges of feloniously collecting nearly \$70,000 in unwarranted overtime. District Attorney Eugene Gold accused the Board of Education of trying to cover up the payment in question. [49:1.]

Business/Finance

A \$4 million fine, the largest penalty ever assessed by a United States transportation regulatory agency, will be paid by Sea-Land Services Inc. by agreement with the Federal Maritime Commission for illegal rebates to customers. The company, which operates the world's largest containership fleet, had acknowledged paying more than \$19 million in rebates between 1971 and 1975. [1:5.]

Economic recovery is resuming after the recent so-called pause, in the opinion of several private American economists impressed by the stronger tone of several indicators. But this has not noticeably blunted pressures on President-elect Carter and the new Congress from economists at home and international organizations and allies abroad to adopt measures that would add stimulus. [1:2-3.]

A record Soviet grain harvest of 223.8 metric tons, rebounding from the 1975 crop failure, was announced in Moscow. The Agriculture Minister added that the Soviet commitment to buy from 6 million to 8 million tons of grain annually from the United States in the next five years would be kept. [39:2-4.]

Stock prices dropped sharply, with Dow Jones industrials down 9.81 points to close at 978.06. [39:3.] The bond market recorded a high-grade utility bond issue offer at a yield of 7.625 percent, the lowest rate on such securities since June, 1973. [41:5-6.] Gold futures were down on all markets, while coffee futures fell 6.3 cents on March delivery and cocoa futures moved cautiously up in New York. [47:3-6.]

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CORRECTION

In the Notes on People column yesterday, Lowell Thomas Jr. was erroneously identified as the Lieutenant Governor of Hawaii. He is the Lieutenant Governor of Alaska.