News Summary

NYTimes

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International

President Carter is urging an instant and complete halt to all testing of nuclear weapons as a step toward curbing their spread and ultimately banning them, he disclosed in his first White House interview. He said he had received an encouraging message from the Soviet Union. He was hopeful also of fairly rapid ratification of a new treaty with the Soviet Union limiting strategic arms. [Page 1, Column 6.]

Britain failed in its attempt to achieve a settlement between Rhodesia's white minority and the black majority. Prime Minister Ian D. Smith rejected British proposals for a transition government leading to black rule in 14 months and told Rhodesians he had done so because they would have put the country under the immediate control of a "Marxist-indoctrinated minority." He was then accused by a black nationalist group of "opting for war." [1:2.]

Vice President Mondale told the 15-member council of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization in Brussels that in view of the increased Soviet military strength in Europe, the Carter Administration was presared to increase defense outlays within NATO. He said that President Carter's campaign promise to cut the defense budget would not affect NATO-related expenditures. [1:3.]

Questions about the lack of Federal controls over bribes paid by American corporations overseas and the need for international cooperation to end them have again been raised in a dispute between the General Telephone and Electronics Corporation and the Hughes Aircraft Company over allegations of bribery of Indonesian officials. [1:5-6.]

National

President Carter rescinded former President Ford's order to end gasoline price controls, while the Federal Energy Ad-

ministration took steps toward increasing fuel supplies. The F.E.A. issued emergency regulations intended to improve supplies of propane and natural gas, particularly in the Southeast and the Ohio River Valley, and to provide more kerosene for heating in the upper Midwest. [1:1.]

Simplicity, frugality and candid discourse—the recurrent themes of President Carter's campaign—were repeated again at his first Cabinet meeting and will, it appears, set the tone for his Administration. He announced that chauffeur service for his own staff, a traditional privilege of Presidential aides, would be canceled, and he urged the Cabinet members to make similar economies in their departments. [1:4-5.]

Metropolitan

A joint statement following a meeting of Mayor Beame and leading bankers said that they were in "broad agreement" on steps to meet New York City's debt and budget problems—but they appeared no closer on the key issue of outside controls on the city's finances. The statement said that the banks' proposals for such control, which they have been pressing on the city, constituted nothing more than "one possible set of conditions" that might enable the city to sell its bonds, as it has wanted to do. [1:1-2.]

Governor Carey's proposal for a 45-day cutoff on home relief apparently will not be submitted to the Legislature because of objections it aroused on the ground it is unconstitutional. This leaves a \$45 million part of the Governor's budget proposal in doubt. [24:1-2.]

Business/Finance

Sharply higher earnings for the final quarter of 1976, which was much colder than the same period in 1975, are being reported by fuel suppliers and utilities, according to Wall Street

analysts. One utility, the General Public Utilities Corporation, reported gains of 67 percent in last year's final quarter. The Suburban Propane Gas Corporation's earnings rose 25 percent. Both companies acknowledged that a good part of the increase resulted from the unusually cold weather. [45:5-6.]

Another indicator that the economy may be improving was the Commerce Department report that new orders for durable goods placed with manufacturers in December rose 6.6 percent, one of the best increases that category made in 1976. The figure, however, was preliminary and could be revised, by as much as 2 percent. [45:4.]

The American Motors Corporation reported that it had halted its recent heavy losses with earnings of \$1.2 million, or 4 cents a share, in the December quarter of 1976. This was the first time that A.M.C. had reported a profit in three quarters, but some industry analysts doubted that the profits could be sustained throughout the company's fiscal year. [45:2.]

A group of North American, German and British banks made a loan of \$1.5 billion to the British Government to help bolster its reserves of foreign currency. Chancellor of the Exchequer Denis Healey told the House of Commons that the terms of the loan were "the best that have been achieved in the market for a comparable operation" since the Government borrowed \$2.5 billion from an international banking group in 1974. [45:1.]

Stock prices made a small gain in slower trading following a Commerce Department report that durable goods orders in December rose substantially by 6.6 percent. The Dow Jones industrial average closed up 1.17 points at 963.60. Rising stocks outnumbered losers by about 4 to 3. [45:4-5.] Credit markets, worried about a recent drain on the nation's money supply and the strength of the general economy, declined fairly sharply. Most long-term bond prices dropped a half-point. [46:3-4.] Cotton futures rose to the daily limit of \$10 a bale following reports that China was buying cotton from this country. Futures traders also bid up frozen Florida orange juice by the daily limit of 3 cents a pound for the sixth consecutive session. [59:1-4.]

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Quotation of the Day

"I told Jerry I don't want him home to lunch."—Betty Ford, discussing her future plans and those of former President Ford. [1:4.]

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The film "Les Galettes de Pont Aven," which was reviewed yesterday, did not open at the 68th Street Playhouse, which is showing "The Marquise of O..." indefinitely. "Les Galettes," which The Times's critic saw at a preview, may open at a later date.