

News Summary

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International

Prime Minister Indra Gandhi's principal political opponents in the March 16 parliamentary elections held a rally at the same fairground in New Delhi a day after Mrs. Gandhi addressed a throng there. The crowd was larger, more enthusiastic and more responsive than the one that heard Mrs. Gandhi. Jaya Prakash Narayan, who 19 months ago had called for a campaign of passive resistance against Mrs. Gandhi's Government, said the future of democracy in India would be decided at the elections. He was accompanied by Jagjivan Ram, who resigned from Mrs. Gandhi's Cabinet on Wednesday. He attacked the Prime Minister in personal terms. [Page 1, Column 3.]

National

"Wholesale corruption" exists at ports throughout the country, sources close to an investigation by the Justice Department say. The corruption being investigated by the F.B.I. and the grand juries, according to the sources, involved "a majority" of the 30-member executive council of the International Longshoremen's Association, officers of I.L.A. locals and officials of shipping companies and other concerns doing business on the waterfront. [1:6.]

California made a significant change in the way the state government will work with the swearing-in by Gov. Edmund G. Brown Jr. of 60 new members he appointed to state regulatory boards that control licensed professions and occupations. None of the new members, who have a wide range of background and expertise in related field, are certified in the occupation they will help administer. They will be "lobbyists for the people," the Governor said. [1:1-2.]

Colleges and universities are moving quickly to improve their teaching of writing in the belief that there has been deterioration in the ability of

students to write well. Cornell University has appointed a full-time dean for writing, the first institution to do so. The College Entrance Examination Board has announced that next fall it will reinstate a 20-minute essay in its English composition achievement test. Students themselves have asked for help, too. [1:4.]

Schoolchildren in Columbus, Ohio, will be offered lessons on television, radio and in newspapers while their schools are closed for the next month because of a natural-gas shortage. High school seniors and juniors will be invited to Ohio State University, and recreation officials will offer such courses as "outdoor survival." Regular television programs will be canceled four hours daily on WBNS-TV to make room for the lessons. [1:1-2]

Metropolitan

Some people will return to work and gas-heated schools will open today in upstate New York. New gas supplies will permit the reopening of 1,576 plants employing more than 117,000 people, which were closed for a week because of the severe cold and lack of fuel. But 883 factories employing 100,000 workers in Buffalo and 10 western counties will apparently delay their reopening until Wednesday. In New Jersey, 2,500 factories with 100,000 employees will reopen today. [1:1-2.]

All New York City's 300,000 high school students will be tested in reading, for the first time, as part of a major effort to evaluate and improve their academic performance. School Chancellor Irving Anker said the raising of the reading requirement for high school graduation was also being considered. If the higher standard is adopted, a student seeking a diploma would be required to demonstrate a ninth-grade reading level or better, instead of the present minimum eighth-grade level. [1:5.]

Business/Finance

Moderating temperatures are allowing many people in the New York and New Jersey to return to work this week, but widespread unemployment elsewhere because of the natural-gas shortage is likely to continue for the rest of the winter, possibly into the spring, according to industry and Government officials. [35:5-6.]

Bond traders and dealers seem to have no conviction about the outlook for rates, which declined through all of January. The Weeden Holding Corporation reported a \$1.9 million loss in January mainly because the value of its holdings of Government securities dropped sharply and unexpectedly. Bond losses are believed to have similarly affected other firms. [35:5-6.]

With few exceptions, New York City's department stores made only small sales gains in January and in the fiscal year ended last month. Sales for the month and the year were under the national average. [35:4.]

The apparent suicide of Foster Parker, the 58-year-old president of Brown & Root of Houston, an international engineering and construction concern and the country's largest producer of offshore oil rigs, has caused serious managerial problems for his company. On Jan. 14, six days after Mr. Parker's death, his company announced that it had received a subpoena from a Federal grand jury in New Orleans that is investigating the booming offshore equipment industry. [35:1-3.]

One of the still-to-be-confirmed appointees to the President's three-man Council of Economic Advisers is William D. Nordhaus, a Yale professor, who will be responsible for international economics. He has had little experience in the field, which he concedes, but which is something few members of the council have had. Another appointee is Lyle E. Gramley, a senior Federal Reserve Board economist and an associate of Arthur F. Burns, the Federal Reserve's chairman, who sees no need for President Carter's economic stimulus program. Mr. Nordhaus and Mr. Gramley will serve under the council's chairman, Charles L. Schultze, who came from the Brookings Institution. [35:2-4.]

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Quotation of the Day

"During the shifting sands and the changing times of the last 25 years, the royal family has advanced and adapted in a most remarkable way, and the debt we owe to the queen and Prince Philip is incalculable."—Chaplain Antony Harbottle, at Windsor's Royal Chapel on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the accession of Queen Elizabeth II to the throne. [8:4.]

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