

News Summary

NYTimes

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27, 1977

APR 27 1977

International

President Carter told reporters after concluding his talks with King Hussein of Jordan that unless there were advance indications of progress toward a settlement it might be better to call off plans for a new Geneva conference on the Middle East. Although he said he was not discouraged that the gap between the Israeli and Arab positions has not been bridged so far, Administration officials confirmed that there was a long way to go. King Hussein seemed to share this cautious approach. [Page A1, Column 5.]

Strategic arms talks will resume May 11 in Geneva, in advance of the meeting there of Secretary of State Cyrus R. Vance and Foreign Minister Andrei A. Gromyko, the United States and the Soviet Union announced. Paul C. Warnke, who will head the American delegation at the new round of efforts to negotiate an arms limitation treaty, said no breakthrough was indicated, but rather a hope on both sides to clear up some technical problems and prepare for the higher-level session later that month. [A1:4.]

A first step toward capping the runaway North Sea oil well off Norway was taken when volunteer workmen attached a blowout protector and installed hydraulic rams they hope will pinch off the well. Work stopped at midday after the wind died, permitting a dangerous concentration of natural gas on the drilling platform over the sea. [A1:3.]

National

President Carter's jobs bill, a key element in his economic stimulus package, won acceptance from House and Senate conferees who agreed to detach the controversial water pollution provisions from the measure. The \$4 billion bill to create 280,000 jobs in public works such as schools, hospitals, rail beds and parks is expected to be ready for signature on Friday. [A1:6.]

Ceilings on doctors' fees are under study by the Carter Administration, which as

already introduced legislation to contain hospital costs. The proposal's completion is months away, but its introduction could bring sharp controversy with organized medicine. A specialist with links to that group said that after the hospital bill "we knew it would only be a matter of time before they started on us." [A1:6.]

The major factor making men susceptible to heart attacks is a change in the delicate balance of the body's sex hormones, according to a major new theory developed by Dr. Gerald B. Phillips of Columbia University. His evidence is drawn from a study of heart attack patients at Roosevelt Hospital. If confirmed, the theory offers the possibility of developing new ways of preventing and treating heart attacks and has implications for the aging process. [A1:1-2.]

Regional name-calling has begun in several parts of the country, particularly in the South and West, touched off by President Carter's energy proposals. Legislators in Western coal-producing states have pledged protection against the ravages of strip mining, generating plants and coal slurry pipelines, and state officials in the southwest have promised to go all-out to save local oil and gas for the region's growing industry. [44:4-6.]

Christopher J. Boyce, defendant in Los Angeles Federal Court, said his revulsion as a Central Intelligence Agency code clerk on learning of a "deception against the Australians" led eventually to his being blackmailed into becoming a Soviet spy. Government lawyers raised objections when he began explaining details of the alleged deception and were upheld by the judge. Other sources said it had some connection with an American satellite communication readout station in Australia. [A16:1-6.]

Metropolitan

The constitutionality of the Municipal Assistance Corporation was upheld by the New York State Court of Appeals,

removing what M.A.C. officials called a "cloud" that drove up its interest rate and hampered its efforts to meet New York City's financial needs. The victory by no means eliminated all legal difficulties surrounding city finances. [A1:1.]

Rent stabilization in New York State will be extended for four more years, along with upstate and suburban rent control, under an agreement reached by both houses of the Legislature. The unexpected swiftness with which Senate Republicans agreed without the usual bitter fight was seen as a major political coup for and hampered its efforts to meet New them, making a virtue out of a political necessity. [A:12.]

Bella S. Abzug is "running" for the Democratic nomination for Mayor of New York City, she said, even though her candidacy remains formally unannounced. She said she would actively seek the endorsement of the liberal New Democratic Coalition, while she was prepared for rejection of her candidacy by the Liberal Party and for only a mixed reaction from union leaders. "I'm first in the polls," the fiery former Representative said. [A1:3.]

Eight alleged pornographers were arrested by detectives of the Manhattan District Attorney's office squad, and 4,000 copies of films involving children aged 8 to 12 were seized. In a separate development, Citibank agreed to a request by the Mayor's Midtown Citizens Committee to close accounts of sex merchants who use its credit cards. [A1:6.]

Business/Finance

With steel profits sharply down in the first quarter, key industry leaders began calling for an almost immediate increase in prices. They blamed poor weather, a lag in the economy and rising imports. United States Steel said profits were 72 percent below a year earlier, while Bethlehem Steel reported a \$25.2 million loss compared with a \$28.4 net profit in the first quarter of 1976. [55:6.]

Stock prices clung precariously to a slight gain, with the Dow Jones industrial average closing up 1.02 points at 915.62 and narrowly avoiding another 15-month low. Wall Street appeared nervous over rising short-term rates, among other worries, including uncertainties posed by President Carter's energy program. [55:1-2.]

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Quotation of the Day

"Unless we see strong possibility for substantial achievements before the Geneva conference can be convened, unless we see that prospect, then I think it would be better not to have the Geneva conference at all."—President Carter, after concluding talks with King Hussein of Jordan. [A1:5.]

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CORRECTION

Because of editing errors, a report on the energy situation in Calvert County, Md., that appeared in The Times on Monday stated erroneously that Thomas Rymer was a former delegate to the Maryland legislature, and that buildings in the county were burned in the Revolutionary War. Mr. Rymer is currently a member of the legislature, and the buildings were burned in the War of 1812.

Weekend

FRIDAY IN

The New New York Times

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