

News Summary

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International

Leonid I. Brezhnev warned that other countries seeking to "meddle" in the fighting in Zaire would bear full responsibility for the consequences. The Soviet leader avoided naming specific countries, but he spoke of "attempts undertaken by the imperialist forces and their henchmen to interfere in the domestic military conflict of Zaire." He did not say what the consequences of involvement might be. [Page 1, Col. 3.]

National

A "national catastrophe" threatens Americans if they do not respond with the "moral equivalent of war" to dwindling energy supplies, President Carter said in a televised address to the nation. He described his address as "an unpleasant talk." The speech was deliberately somber to prepare the public for his energy program that will be presented to Congress tomorrow night in another televised address. The energy proposals call for higher prices, higher taxes and an end to unlimited increases in energy consumption. [1:6.]

A Central Intelligence Agency appraisal predicting "sizable price increases" for oil and—by implication—all forms of energy by 1982-83 "unless large-scale conservation measures cut demand sharply," was released by the White House. The possibility of runaway oil prices after 1985 was suggested. The report's release was plainly intended to generate public support for President Carter's energy program. [24:1-2.]

An increased gasoline tax expected to be proposed by President Carter was opposed by a powerful Republican and an influential labor leader. Senator Howard Baker, of Tennessee, the minority leader, and Robert A. Georgine, head of the Building and Construction Trades Department of the A.F.L.-C.I.O., both viewed the expected proposal as discriminating against low-income peo-

ple and residents of rural and suburban areas. [24:5-6.]

Enforcement of auto emission standards would be delayed under proposals relayed on behalf of the Administration to Congress by Douglas M. Costle, head of the Environmental Protection Agency. But the Administration wants tough regulation of air polluters, including fines. Mr. Costle's testimony in the House was the Administration's first public statement on the controversial clean air issue. It generally put the Government's support behind environmentalists. [1:3-4.]

A cut in mail deliveries to five days a week was recommended by a study commission established by Congress to find ways to improve operations of the United States Postal Service. The commission also recommended an increase in Government subsidies, an immediate appropriation to clear up a \$625 million operating debt, and the use of electronic equipment to transmit messages and funds. [1:1-2.]

A special Pulitzer Award went to Alex Haley for his controversial best seller tracing his origins back seven generations to an African village. For the first time in the 61 years of the prizes, there was none for international reporting. It was learned that the advisory board rejected the jury's unanimous recommendation that one be given to James M. Markham and Henry Tanner of The New York Times for their coverage of the civil war in Lebanon. [1:1-2.]

Metropolitan

Connecticut's system of financing public schools mainly from local property taxes was unconstitutional, the state's Supreme Court said, because reliance on taxes denied equal educational opportunities to children from poorer districts. The court's 4-to-1 decision did not say how the financing method should be changed, but it noted that

it would cost hundreds of dollars annually to adjust the differences. [1:1-2.]

Thieves stole at gunpoint a safe of cut and uncut diamonds from a diamond dealer on West 47th Street in Manhattan. The police put "a shaky estimate" of \$1 million on the gems, but the dealer, Henry Grossbard, said it would take days to complete an inventory and determine the value of the jewels. [41:6.]

Governor Brendan T. Byrne of New Jersey is expected to announce today his candidacy for a second term. He was elected by the largest plurality in the state's history four years ago. In running for re-election, he will be a decided underdog. [41:1-2.]

Business/Finance

More new homes were being built last month than at any time in nearly four years, the Commerce Department said. Plentiful mortgage money at the lowest rates in three years was largely responsible for the increase. Overall housing starts were at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 2.1 million units, up 17 percent from February, 49 percent higher than a year ago, and the highest level since May 1973. Single-family dwellings, at 1.5 million units, were at the highest level since the Government began keeping figures in 1959. [51:5-6.]

Cuba is host to a delegation of 52 Minnesota businessmen, the largest American group to visit Cuba since its break in relations with the United States 15 years ago. The Greater Minneapolis Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring the visit, and when the Minnesotans stopped in Washington on their way to Havana to pick up 24 newsmen they were greeted by Senator Hubert H. Humphrey of Minnesota who told them "You're taking a historic step, you ought to remember that." Among the group are representatives of General Mills, the Pillsbury Company, the Control Data Corporation and Honeywell Inc., and smaller companies. [51:2-4.]

Stock prices declined moderately as investors awaited President Carter's speech on his energy policy. The Dow Jones industrial average slipped 5 points to 942.76. Wall Street analysts regarded the Dow's decline as a normal reaction following last week's gain of nearly 29 points, its best weekly advance in 14 months. [51:2-3.]

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Quotation of the Day

"With the exception of preventing war, this is the greatest challenge our country will face during our lifetime. The energy crisis has not yet overwhelmed us, but it will if we do not act quickly."—President Carter. [24:1.]

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CORRECTIONS

In a report on proposed Electoral College changes that appeared in the Times last Wednesday, it was incorrectly stated that Senator Birch Bayh's current proposal for direct popular election of the President provided for a vote by a joint session of Congress in the event that no Presidential candidate received 40 percent of the national vote. The Bayh plan, in its present form, calls for a runoff election in such a situation.

Because of an engraving error, the identifications of Paul Mellon and Edmund P. Pillsbury were transposed in the caption of a picture with the articles about the Yale Center for British Art in part of yesterday's first edition.