

News Summary

NYTimes

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Energy Program

In a reversal, the Carter Administration said that the energy program would have "no significant effect" on the country's economic growth. The retraction, by Bert Lance, director of the Office of Management and Budget, replaced and contradicted part of an energy "fact sheet" released Wednesday predicting "small, but generally positive impacts on the economy" from the energy program. Economists, meanwhile, continued to argue that the program would mean more inflation, less employment and less growth. [Page A1, Column 6.]

The strongest objections in Congress to the energy program were directed at the proposed higher gasoline taxes because either they would cause hardship or members doubted the taxes would cut gasoline consumption. The energy proposals were also criticized because incentives for increased oil and natural gas output were inadequate. [B6:1-3.]

Oil and gas producers also criticized the energy program's lack of incentives to expand production. Some oil companies and trade associations expressed distaste for the Administration's proposals. "We're concerned about the lack of balance in the proposed energy program," said H. J. Haynes, the chairman of the Standard Oil Company of California. [B6:4-5.]

Most people are prepared to make adjustments in the way they live, work and play to get along with the energy program, according to an informal check of families in all parts of the country. Some resentment was expressed, though, and it seemed that some of the energy-saving measures might be painful, even unfair. [A1:5-6.]

International

Emergency powers were assumed by Prime Minister Bhutto of Pakistan, who imposed martial law on three major cities in a crackdown on the opposition

alliance trying to force him to resign. Karachi, Lahore and Hyderabad were put under strict curfew and the Government radio warned that curfew violators were liable to be shot at. Mr. Bhutto said. [A1:1-2.]

A visit to Havana will probably be made soon by Terence A. Todman, the State Department's chief Latin American official, to resume the negotiations on fishing and maritime rights that were begun in New York last month. It would be the first visit by a ranking administration official since diplomatic relations were broken in 1961. [A1:3.]

National

Slightly smaller price increases for food and other commodities slowed the inflation rate in March, the Labor Department said. The Consumer Price Index rose 0.6 percent last month, down sharply from the increase of 1 percent in February, 0.8 percent in January. There was an average monthly rise of only 0.3 percent in the last four months of 1976. [A1:5.]

A tax break for business in some form was virtually assured in the Senate despite President Carter's withdrawal of business tax concessions from his economic stimulus program. The Senate voted 74 to 20 against a motion by two liberal Democrats, Edward M. Kennedy of Massachusetts and Dale Bumpers of Arkansas to kill provisions for business credits in the tax bill that went to the floor Tuesday. A final Senate vote is not expected until next week. [A1:4-5.]

A review of the conviction of the Watergate cover-up defendants, John N. Mitchell, H. R. Haldeman and John D. Ehrlichman, was reported turned down by the Supreme Court last Friday in a 5 to 3 vote. Chief Justice Warren E. Burger was said by court sources to have postponed a final disposition of the case, however, and to have scheduled the review issue for consideration at the justices' regular private session today. [A1:4.]

Metropolitan

A tougher stand against corporate moves from New York City is being taken by The Mayor's Office of Economic Development. One of the measures being taken is an attempt to block use of Federal highway funds for road improvements that make remote suburban areas accessible for office centers. Meanwhile, the Suburban Action Institute, a private group, is preparing to file lawsuits against companies that move to places that have low numbers of minority workers. [A1:1-2.]

Peter C. Goldmark Jr., New York State's Budget Director, has been proposed by Governor Carey as the next executive director of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. His appointment would be part of an agreement between Governor Carey and Governor Byrne of New Jersey, under which Governor Byrne would name a successor to Dr. William J. Ronan as the Authority's chairman. [A15:3-4.]

Business/Finance

America's trading partners in Western Europe were assured by the Carter Administration that it would strongly oppose domestic pressure to restrict imports, particularly pressure against imports of European steel. The assurances came from Richard N. Cooper, Under Secretary of State for Economic Affairs, at a meeting of the commission of the Common Market. [D1:6.]

Department store sales in New York City increased in March for the second consecutive month and again exceeded the total gain made by major stores in the metropolitan area. The new, greater strength of city's retail business dramatically reverses the dominance of the retail market by suburban stores, which in the last several years had volume increases well above the city stores. There were other indications that New York City's economy was improving. [D1:4-5.]

Stock prices declined under selling pressure. Many blue-chip issues, including I.B.M., Eastman Kodak and Sears, Roebuck, traded at their lowest prices of this year. The Dow Jones industrial average was steady at the session's start, but later it weakened and closed 6.79 points lower at 935.80. [D1:2-3.]

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Quotation of the Day

"It's like it was the day after Pearl Harbor, and you interviewed the Congressman from Detroit and he said, 'The Japanese attack was outrageous, but before we rush into war, let's see how it would affect the automobile industry,' and then somebody else said, 'It was dastardly, but consider the effect on oil,' and another Congressman said, 'War could be very serious for recreation and tourism.'"—Representative Morris K. Udall, Democrat of Arizona, analyzing Congressional response to President Carter's program to conserve energy. [B6:2.]

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CORRECTION

An article in The Times yesterday reported incorrectly that Claude Arpels, the president of VanCleave & Arpels jewelers, had admitted giving an Internal Revenue Service agent jewelry valued at \$14,000. Mr. Arpels valued the gifts at \$1,400.