

News Summary

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International

Additional British troops were flown to Northern Ireland hours before a general strike called by militant Protestants was to begin. Strike leaders said that they would go ahead unless the British agreed to crush the predominantly Catholic Irish Republican Army and reinstitute a parliament for Northern Ireland controlled by the Protestant majority. [Page 1, Columns 1-2.]

President Carter told European television interviewers that he would maintain his "undeviating commitment" to human rights everywhere until his last day in office. He stressed that this did not mean imposing his view forcibly on other nations. He said the coming economic summit meeting in London was intended not for mutual criticism but to seek common ground and set long-range goals. [1:2.]

Laos two years after the gradual Communist takeover has largely suppressed crime, with hard work expected from everyone. But more than 100,000 people, including most of the professional and commercial elite, have fled. An official estimate says that about 1,000 a month, including farmers and urban workers, are still crossing into Thailand. [1:1-4.]

The Soviet Union has achieved a breakthrough toward developing a weapon capable of destroying the entire United States ballistics missile force, according to an American scientific journal. Aviation Week and Space Technology said that an advance in high-energy physics may soon provide the Russians with a directed-energy beam capable of neutralizing all of the American missiles. The Department of Defense said it did not think much of the report. [3:3-4.]

National

The nation's welfare system "should be

scrapped and a totally new system implemented," President Carter said, but he added that the new system could not go into effect for four years or more. Changes in the welfare system have been under intense study by the Administration for more than three months. The President, in a reporters' briefing, offered few more specific proposals for change than he did in his campaign. [1:6.]

Laws against the posting of "for sale" and "sold" signs on residential property are generally unconstitutional, the Supreme Court said, if towns and municipalities adopted such prohibitions to stem the flight of white homeowners in the hope of maintaining an integrated community. The Court, by 8 to 0, ruled that the ban violated the First Amendment. [1:5.]

Metropolitan

Lawyers motivated by greed instead of social responsibility were criticized by Chief Judge Charles D. Breitel of the New York State Court of Appeals in a Law Day address in Albany. He told an audience of lawyers and court officials that the practice of law had become so profitable that the profession "tends to attract in certain sectors persons motivated by greed." [1:1-2.]

The maximum term of eight and a half to 25 years in prison was given to a 19-year-old youth, Ronald Timmons, who had pleaded guilty to the beating and robbery of an 82-year-old woman. He was denounced as a "fiend" and a "sadist" by an assistant district attorney, Albert Annunziata, who sought the maximum sentence in Bronx Criminal Court. [1:6.]

Mayor Beame proposed that he take "clear and direct" control of New York City's public-school system by abolishing the Board of Education and replacing it with a commissioner of education appointed by and responsible to

him. Changes in the law by the City Council and the State Legislature would be necessary first. [1:1.]

A legislative attempt in Albany to put together a package of bills benefiting the elderly on the eve of Senior Citizens Day in the state capital failed when the Assembly leadership botched a principal measure that would have liberalized property-tax exemptions for people 65 years of age or over. "You've just cheated thousands of elderly people out of tax reductions they'd have been entitled to this year," an Assemblyman told his colleagues. [45:1-2.]

Business/Finance

A natural gas pipeline across Canada from Alaska's North Slope was proposed by the Federal Power Commission in Washington. The four commissioners were divided over which of the two overland routes should be accepted if the Canadians want their gas from the Mackenzie Delta carried south on the same line. They agreed, however, that the proposal by the Alaskan Arctic Gas Pipeline Company should be dropped in favor of one by the Alcan Pipeline Company if the Canadians do not participate. [59:5-6.]

United States Steel expects higher steel prices to take effect "within the next 30 to 45 days," J. Michael Curto, a vice president, said following the company's 76th annual meeting in Pittsburgh. Edgar B. Speer, the company's chairman, said at a news conference that price increases were "under study and once we separate out what are the true increased costs of the new labor contract and other costs, and how they affect the various product lines we will take whatever action we have to." [59:5-6.]

The stock market advanced on encouraging economic news, pushing the Dow Jones industrial average up 4.32 points to 931.22. Rising stocks outnumbered declining ones by a 9-to-5 ratio. Prices started to move up in midafternoon when the Commerce Department reported that factory orders had increased 5.2 percent in March while construction spending was up 5.6 percent. [59:1-2.]

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Quotation of the Day

"Lawyers can be so valuable. But if they just go grab, grab, grab, they may be killing the goose that lays the golden egg."—Chief Judge Charles D. Breitell of the New York State Court of Appeals, after Law Day ceremonies [1:1.]

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