

## Notes on People

*Hebert Retiring After*

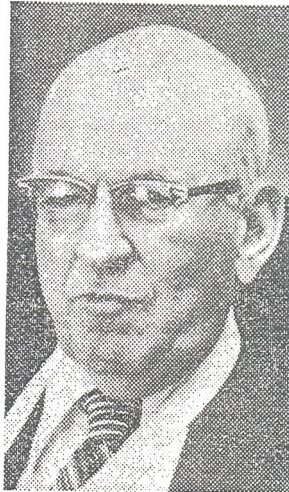
Representative F. Edward Hébert, the Louisiana Democrat who is fourth in the House in seniority, said yesterday that he would retire at the end of this session. He will be 75 years old then and will have served 36 consecutive years, the longest for any member of Congress from his state. Only George H. Mahon and W. R. Poage, both of Texas, and Wilbur D. Mills of Arkansas exceed him in seniority.

A longtime member of the Armed Services Committee, Mr. Hébert was its chairman from 1970 until he and three other senior chairmen were deposed in 1974. His voting record has emphasized support of states' rights and the Pentagon. A Tulane graduate who studied law but did not complete his degree, Mr. Hébert was formerly city editor of The New Orleans States.

## NYTimes

In his first decision involving the watergate case since his heart attack on Feb. 5, Judge John Sirica denied yesterday H. R. Haldeman's plea for a new trial and a hearing of evidence. Judge Sirica, issuing a memorandum from his Washington home, described as "far too speculative" the argument that the wife of a United States marshal had spoken to the sequestered jurors when she joined them at dinner during the cover-up trial.

"The trial court cannot set the stage for the defendant to engage in such a fishing expedition," Judge Sirica said in deciding that the incident did not prejudice the



The New York Times

F. Edward Hébert

trial. Mr. Haldeman, former White House chief of staff, and three others have appealed their convictions to the United States Court of Appeals. Judge Sirica is tentatively expected back on the bench in mid-May.

In Paris, the Soviet ambassador offered the press an explanation of why Leonid Brezhnev is not attending the Bulgarian Communist Party congress. Ambassador Stepan Chervonenko said the Soviet party chairman was in good health and simply on vacation, resting after his own party's long congress. He did not know whether Mr. Brezhnev would still be on vacation when the Czechoslovakian party congress opens April 12.

A Niagara Falls honeymoon is not in the plans of