

News Summary and Index

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The Major Events of the Day

International

The National Liberation Front said in the waning hours of the 48-hour truce during the Western New Year holiday that the Vietcong would observe a seven-day cease-fire during the Asian New Year next month. The United States had agreed to honor a four-day truce during that period—the greatest festival of the year in Vietnam. Military spokesmen reported 135 incidents during the first 42 hours of the truce period that just ended, compared with 120 during the two-day lull at Christmas. [Page 1, Column 8.]

Asked on a television program in Washington if the United States would accept the seven-day cease-fire proposal of the Vietcong, Secretary of State Dean Rusk said he would have to consult with South Vietnam and other countries whose troops are fighting in Vietnam before deciding. He also reiterated the United States' position on the bombing of North Vietnam, saying it would not be halted until there was some commitment from Hanoi. [1:6-7.]

A victory for Mao Tse-tung and his chosen successor, Lin Piao, over opposition within Communist China during the new year was predicted by the Chinese press. A long editorial in a Peking newspaper also seemed to offer an olive branch to Communist party officials who fall into line. [1:7.]

"Canada is a college sophomore who can't make up his mind on a career, but is nevertheless confidently on his way." The remark, made by an Ottawa politician, sums up some of the enthusiasm, and some of the confusion, in the United States' neighbor to the north as she prepares to mark the centennial of her confederation. [1:2-6.]

National

Now is the time to come to the aid of the party, Democratic party leaders generally agree, but they disagree on the way to go about it. Revitalization of the Democratic National Committee was the recommendation of most top Democrats interviewed in a 30-State survey, but some felt strengthening local organizations was more important. Despite Democratic control of the White House and Congress, some of the party's leaders are fearful Democrats are losing youth, talent, and momentum. [1:1.]

Liberals in the Senate are more optimistic this year than they have been in some time

over the chances of modifying the filibuster rule. Their optimism is based on two factors: their voting strength in the new Senate; and the possible support of Vice President Humphrey, who as a Senator favored modification of the rule to make it easier to halt filibusters. [1:2.]

In New Year's Day professional football games the Green Bay Packers made a dramatic goal-line stand in the closing seconds of their game with the Dallas Cowboys to win their seventh National Football League title, and the Kansas City Chiefs downed the Bills, 31-7, in Buffalo for the American Football League crown. The two winners will meet in Los Angeles on Jan. 15. [1:2-4, Details on pages 26 and 27.]

The nation's public schools are educating a record number of students, a tally shows. Enrollment has reached 44.66 million, an increase of 2.3 per cent over the last school year. [16:4.]

They say in Texas that a visit to the hill country where Lyndon B. Johnson was reared provides an insight into the President's personality and policies. Max Frankel made the trip and found many similarities between the people there and L.B.J. "At last we have a President without an accent," one woman there is said to have exclaimed. [17:1-5.]

Metropolitan

Federal antipoverty officials have turned down New York City's proposals for 12 new city projects because of cutbacks in funds. The 12 were among 14 new projects submitted by the city last June. Federal officials say they are still trying to find funds for the two others. The status of projects already operating remains vague, midway through the fiscal year. [1:5.]

The city has reached a general agreement with an order of nuns to lease a part of the recently closed St. Francis Hospital in the South Bronx on a month-to-month basis for an outpatient treatment center. Residents of the area are still unhappy—they were afraid the city would pull out in three or four months. [21:8.]

The first state law requiring fluoridation of public water goes into effect in Connecticut today. By next fall about 88 per cent of the state's residents will have fluoride in their drinking water, and—doctors say—fewer cavities in their teeth thereafter. [1:3-4.]