

News Summary and Index

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 1974 APR 10 1974

The Major Events of the Day

International

India, Pakistan and Bangladesh reached a major breakthrough and signed an agreement to repatriate 195 Pakistani prisoners of war. The war-crimes trial planned for the prisoners is to be dropped by Bangladesh. The pact opened the way for normal diplomatic and economic relations between the three nations and the easing of tensions and hostilities that followed the Bangladesh war in 1971. [1:5.]

A political controversy over real-estate deals involving associates of Prime Minister Wilson was entwined with the reported destruction of a crucial letter. The letter, which was written on Mr. Wilson's personal House of Commons stationery hearing what he has said was a forgery of his signature, prodded a property dealer to complete a real-estate transaction with Mrs. Marcia Williams, Mr. Wilson's secretary for 18 years, and members of her family. [1:2-3.]

National

The White House told the House Judiciary Committee that it needs more time to decide how to respond to its request for tape recordings of 42 Presidential conversations relating to Watergate. [1:8.]

The Democratic majority on the House Judiciary Committee has informally agreed to support limited participation by the President's counsel, James D. St. Clair, in the impeachment inquiry. Mr. St. Clair would be allowed to be an observer in sessions in which evidence on President Nixon's conduct in office is presented to the committee. If formally adopted by the committee, the proposal could prevent widening of the partisan rift that has been developing as Democrats and Republicans debated the President's right of representation. [1:6-7.]

The Senate, breaking an 11-day filibuster, voted 64 to 30—one more than the required two-thirds — to close debate on a major campaign reform bill that would use public funds to finance Presidential and Congressional elections starting in 1976. The vote appeared to insure the eventual passage of a public campaign financing bill by the Senate. [1:6-7.]

Judge Lee P. Gaigliardi of Federal District Court in New York made two rulings that apparently damaged the defense of John N. Mitchell and Maurice H. Stans in their criminal conspiracy trial. During the day, Robert H. Finch, former Secretary of Health, Welfare and Education, and W. Clement Stone, Chicago millionaire, testified, among others, for the defense, but it was the judge's rulings that were more important. [1:4.]

Nine former Grumman Aerospace Corporation employees and seven officers of companies that performed work for Grumman have pleaded guilty to an elaborate kickback scheme in the awarding of millions of dollars worth of Navy subcontracts, United States Attorney William Boyd 5th announced in Brooklyn. He said that an inquiry by the Federal Bureau of Investigation into the Grumman case had found indications of possible similar payoff arrangements elsewhere in the nation's defense industry. [1:8.]

Witnesses told a Congressional subcommittee that major oil companies had been breaking antitrust laws for years with the knowledge and sometimes the approval of the Justice and the Interior Departments. Representative John D. Dingell, a Michigan Democrat who is chairman of a House subcommittee investigating Federal oil and gas leasing policy, and three witnesses complained that the major oil companies are either dictating the terms of survival to smaller companies or forcing them out of business. [1:7.]

Metropolitan

A penny increase to 8 cents on the dollar in the sales tax paid here, a half-billion-dollar borrowing paid by an increase in the stock transfer tax and the dismissal of at least 2,000 city employees are in the budget-balancing package that the city is likely to urge on Albany at a crucial summit meeting tomorrow to fill what Mayor Beame says is a \$1.5-billion gap in the next fiscal year's budget. [1:1.]

Dr. William J. Roman, chairman of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, will be nominated tomorrow as chairman of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, authoritative sources said. As a strong advocate of mass transportation and as a specialist in public finance, his appointment as chairman of the agency he now serves as vice chairman would most likely intensify pressure to force the agency to undertake new financial and managerial responsibilities for mass transit. [1:2-3.]

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Quotation of the Day

"The trials, tribulations, tensions, and conflicts of the subcontinent will become a thing of the past, something of a bad dream that is best forgotten."—Swarn Singh, India's Foreign Minister, after signing pact on Pakistani prisoners. [1:5.]

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