

News Summary and Index

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The Major Events of the Day

International

President Antonio de Spínola of Portugal dismissed the rest of the two-month-old civilian provisional Cabinet as a prelude to the formation of a new Cabinet that well-informed sources said would be dominated by military officers. The sources said an army officer would be named premier and other officers would be given key cabinet ministries. [1:2-3.]

National

The House Judiciary Committee made public the voluminous evidence it has received in its impeachment inquiry into President Nixon's role in the Watergate affair. Much of the material had been made public previously. There were no startling disclosures, but the 4,133-page record showed a pattern of concern by Mr. Nixon and his aides, going back to within two weeks from the Watergate break-in, about possible further revelations. [1:8.]

In what a member of the House Judiciary Committee said was "a real bloodletting," James D. St. Clair, President Nixon's chief defense lawyer tried to discredit John W. Dean 3d before the committee. It was the first time that Mr. St. Clair or any of Mr. Nixon's other lawyers had to cross-examine Mr. Dean, the President's former counsel who became the chief witness against the President. [1:6-7.]

President Nixon responded to the committee's massive compilation of evidence against him with a defense focusing on the argument that he did not authorize hush money payments to the Watergate burglars. He told the committee in a 242-page response prepared by his lawyers exactly what he has said publicly for months: That he first learned of the Watergate cover-up on March 21, 1973; that he then tried to ascertain the facts, and that he then took steps to bring the facts to the proper authorities. [1:6-7.]

President Nixon will not be able to meet a \$600,000 mortgage payment that falls due Sunday on his estate in San Clemente, Calif., his lawyer, Dean Butler, said. The final payment is due for both Mr. Nixon and a partnership of two friends—Robert Abplanalp and Charles G. Rebozo. The mortgage, Mr. Butler said, will have to be refinanced. [1:24-5.]

President Nixon met privately with a group of leading business executives and

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economists, whom he had summoned for a discussion of the economy, and repeatedly expressed the fear that Congress would pass "silly" and "dangerous" legislation if the Administration miscalculated its anti-inflation program and tipped the economy into a recession. He ruled out any tax changes for this year and said that he would make a major speech or statement on the economy within a week or 10 days. [1:5.]

The Senate voted 64 to 31 to repeal the controversial "no knock" provision in the Federal drug laws. An amendment to strike the provision from the law was added to a \$875-million authorization measure that was passed to extend the Drug Enforcement Administration for five years. The legislation must be approved by the House, where its prospects are uncertain. [1:4.]

An undetermined number of Federal prisoners seized United States marshals and lawyers at the Federal District Courthouse in Washington and reportedly threatened to kill the hostages unless they were granted safe conduct out of the country. [1:6-8.]

Metropolitan

Federal Judge Morris E. Lasker ordered the city to close the Manhattan House of Detention for men within 30 days, but he said he would reconsider the order if the city submitted a "comprehensive, detailed and specific plan" for eliminating conditions at the jail that he declared unconstitutional in January. The city's corrections commissioner said the order was "unjustified" and would be "almost impossible." [1:1.]

A fire on the 21st floor of the new office building at 17 Battery Place forced 5,000 persons to flee safely down the stairs of that building and an adjoining skyscraper. They made an orderly escape thanks to drill and warden systems developed after a fatal fire in 1970 in a nearby new skyscraper at 1 New York Plaza. [1:3.]

Mayor Beame, speaking in the little Green-acre Park on 51st Street near Third Avenue, proposed a major revision of zoning rules that would make plazas and miniparks tucked in among Manhattan's skyscrapers more lively and inviting. He endorsed a pending reform by the City Planning Commission of the incentives that have encouraged builders to provide open plaza space on their property. [1:2-5.]

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Quotation of the Day

"The Committee on the Judiciary is working to follow faithfully its mandate to investigate fully and completely whether or not sufficient grounds exist to recommend that the House exercise its constitutional power of impeachment."—Representative Peter W. Rodino Jr., chairman of House Judiciary Committee. [1:4:6.]

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