News Summary and Index

NYTimes WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22, 1975 JAN 22 1975

The Major Events of the Day

International

President Ford denounced North Vietnam for violating the Paris cease-fire accords and confirmed that he would ask Congress for $300-million in additional military aid to South Vietnam. He said at a televised press conference yesterday that he could not foresee the re-entry of the United States into the war but that he did not rule out the possibility of asking Congress to let him use American air power or naval power against North Vietnam. He backed Secretary of State Kissinger's "hypothetical" comment that if the West was undergoing "actual strangulation" he might consider force against oil producers. [Page 1, Column 7.]

Ten men and three women were found murdered in a Montreal tavern, locked in a room before the building was set on fire. The police believed the mass killing, one of the worst crimes in modern Canadian history, was the work of gangsters. It came as a harsh shock to Canadians who think of their society as peaceful and nonviolent, in contrast to the United States. [1:2-3.]

National

President Ford moved to head off a drive in Congress and elsewhere for gasoline rationing. He said that he would veto mandatory rationing by itself as a superficial answer to the need to use less energy. He told his news conference that rationing was short-sighted, inequitable and indequate to meet the long-range goal of ending dependence on foreign sources. He also said that he would ask Congress to defer passage of national health insurance because of projected budget deficits. [1:8.]

The Labor Department reported that the rise in consumer prices abated a little in December but that 1974 was the worst year since 1946 in consumer price inflation. The December increase in the Consumer Price Index was seven-tenths of 1 per cent —one of the smallest monthly increases of the year and well below the rate for the previous four months. [1:5.]

Al Ullman of Oregon, the new chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, told its organizing meeting that President Ford had concurred in the committee's plan to concentrate on a tax-cut bill and to defer consideration of increased oil taxes. Mr. Ford had wanted action on both, but Mr. Ullman argued that the committee could not act swiftly on an antirecession tax cut while considering the more controversial and complex energy tax problem. [1:6-7.]

The Supreme Court in overruling its 1961 decision, said that shifting economic and social patterns have made it constitutionally unacceptable for states to deny women equal opportunity to serve on juries. The 8-1 majority broke new ground when it said that women's role in society was changing and that the courts must recognize their growing economic independence in contemporary life. [1:1-3.]

Metropolitan

Bernard Bergman told a hearing of the United States Senate Subcommittee on Long-Term Care that allegations against him in recent investigations of nursing homes were "totally unfounded, baseless and false." He denied abusing patients, associating with organized crime or heading a nationwide syndicate of nursing homes, and said that he was now involved in operating only two homes in New York and that he appealed properly to politicians for help against "bungling bureaucrats." His lawyer suggested that State Department of Health officials might be hostile to Orthodox Jewish nursing-home operators. [1:1.]

Five private foundations have contributed just under $3-million toward building a permanent home for the public station WNET/13 in the Henry Hudson Hotel. Other gifts and pledges have brought the station more than halfway toward its goal of $10-million to complete the move. [1:4.]

Dr. Bernard R. Gifford, the deputy school chancellor, warned the city administration that its recent economy measures could cost the school system $151-million in Federal aid to help disadvantaged pupils. He called the Board of Education a "$3-billion business" that is forced to work through a Bureau of the Budget staff whose members, he said, "think they are in charge of a little red schoolhouse." [1:7-8.]

The landmark designation of Grand Central Terminal was invalidated by State Supreme Court Justice Irving H. Saypol. His decision accepted the constitutionality of the city's landmarks law but said this application imposed "economic hardship" on Penn Central, which wants to build a 59-story office tower over it. He said preventing the railroad from earning the resulting income was taking property. [1:5-6.]

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Quotation of the Day

"If it was ever the case that women were unqualified to sit on juries or were so situated that none of them should be required to perform jury service, that time has long since passed."—Associate Justice Byron R. White. [1:2.]