# News Summary and Index

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1975 FEB 2 7 1975

# NYTimes The Major Events of the Day

### International

Defense Secretary James R. Schlesinger believes that Cambodia will fall whether or not Congress approves emergency aid. Secretary of State Kissinger reasons that with American aid the Phnom Penh Government's chances for survival waver between zero and 5-5. Both believe Cambodia's collapse would be a setback but not a disaster for American foreign policy as long as aid has not been halted, leaving the United States open to blame. On Vietnam, however, both are reliably known to feel that the fate of the Saigon regime is still vital to the interests of the United States. [Page 1, Columns 5-6.]

Egyptian officials, who are proclaiming confidence that Secretary of State Kissinger will succeed in getting Israel to withdraw from the Sinai passes and oilfields, are at the same time continuing tough bargaining in Cairo with the American ambassador. The official Egyptian optimism is based largely on the belief that the United States has decided to induce Israeli concessions with new economic and military assistance. [1:7-8.]

President Ford, in a news conference in Hollywood, Fla., spoke out against Arab attempts to discriminate against financial "institutions or individuals on religious or ethnic grounds" and said that "such discrimination is totally contrary to American tradition and repugnant to American principles." He made these remarks in his opening statement and did not mention the boycott as such. He said any allegation of discrimination would be fully investigated and appropriate action taken under the laws of the United States, [1:7.]

#### National

The United States Railway Association, a Government agency set up to reorganize the bankrupt railroads of the Northeast, announced its preliminary plan. It would strip away unprofitable freight routes and invest more than \$7-billion in public and private funds in rehabilitation. The largest corporate restructuring in the nation's history would include establishing a Consolidated Rail Corporation from bankrupt lines, except for some that would be taken over by two solvent lines, Norfolk & Western and the Chessie System. Conrail and the two other systems would compete. But Norfolk & Western said the plan needed continuing Government financial support. The Senate in-

terrupted a filibuster to pass emergency aid for the Penn Central, Erie Lackawanna and other lines. [1:8.]

President Ford told newsmen in Florida that at the rate Congress is moving on a tax cut to stimulate the economy, the measure may not reach his desk until June. He said the only further step he could take to reduce unemployment would be to agree to a larger tax cut than he proposed Jan. 15. He said that when the Democrats in Congress had agreed on a conservation plan for energy he would be glad to negotiate a compromise with them. [1:4.]

house stay.

A new compromise on the filibuster rule in the Senate was proposed by Mike Mansfield, the Democratic leader, and Russell B. Long, Democrat of Louisiana. They suggested that the vote of 60 per cent of the total membership should be sufficient to cut off debate. That would mean, assuming there were no vacancies, that it would take 60 votes to invoke closure. The present rule requires two-thirds of those present and voting. [1:1.]

## Metropolitan

Governor Carey signed into law the bill swiftly passed by both houses of the Legislature setting up a new state agency that could salvage the insolvent Urban Development Corporation if investors now agree to buy its bonds. He acknowledged that major banks in the state were still refusing to take part in the purchase of the bonds, but implied that if they persisted the state might try to market the bonds through other sources of credit. [1:1.]

The Metropolitan Opera, faced with what it called a "survival" situation, asked its employes to accept a 10 per cent pay cut and a reduced working year. Anthony A. Bliss, the executive director, told a hastily called meeting that if the opera house closes it may never open again. Gene Boucher, baritone, who is vice president of the American Guild of Musical Artists, said, "If it means survival, it's not so bad." [1:3.]

The Waterfront Commission of New York Harbor said that the docks and piers of New York and New Jersey were approaching industrial tranquility and a stable work force in contrast to a history of crime, violence and racketeering. Thefts and other crimes are said to have declined sharply, although they are not gone. [1:2.]

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# Quotation of the Day

"We must not let the opera house die."—Anthony A. Bliss, executive director of the Metropolitan Opera, asking employes to accept a 10 per cent pay cut. [1:3.]

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