

News Summary and Index

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26, 1975

NYTimes The Major Events of the Day MAR 26 1975

International

King Faisal of Saudi Arabia was assassinated in Riyadh by a nephew who had a history of mental illness. His brother, Crown Prince Khalid, will succeed him on the throne. Another brother, Prince Fahd, was named Crown Prince and is expected to be the real political power in the country. The assassination appeared to be an individual act, with no change in the military and security support for the monarchy. [Page 1, Columns 5-8.]

In Washington, Administration officials said King Faisal's death had removed a major force of political moderation in the Middle East. The predominant State Department view was that the new king's heart trouble made it likely he would leave the running of the country to Prince Fahd, regarded as a sound business like leader with a relatively relaxed approach to life. They were not expected to match King Faisal's influence in the Arab world. [1:5.]

The northern city of Hue, the cultural heart of South Vietnam, was abandoned by the Saigon Government's forces. The fate of Da Nang, the nation's second largest city 50 miles to the southeast, appeared imperiled but refugees continued to pour in. [1:1-3.]

South Vietnamese troops preparing to defend the Mekong Delta, considered the economic heart of the country, lack fuel for their helicopters and are short of ammunition and even hand grenades. Officers in Can Tho, the major delta city, say these critical shortages leave the area increasingly vulnerable. [1:1.]

President Ford directed the Army Chief of Staff, Gen. Frederick C. Weyand, to fly to Saigon to assess the military situation and recommend whether any further American assistance is needed. The White House said Mr. Ford wanted to tell the South Vietnamese of the President's strong support and all-out effort to persuade Congress to give more aid. [1:2-3.]

Secretary of State Kissinger said at a closed session of the House Foreign Affairs Committee that President Anwar el-Sadat of Egypt had sent word that as a result of the breakdown in talks with Israel he would agree to extend the United Nations peace-keeping force in Sinai only for a few months instead of the usual six-month renewal. Mr. Kissinger was reported to have said this meant that a flash point could develop by

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International

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National

The joint Senate-House conference committee on the antirecession tax-cut bill agreed that all taxpayers should receive a 1974 tax rebate of at least \$100, or of the total amount paid if under \$100. The impact of decisions made thus far in reconciling House and Senate versions would eliminate \$6.6-billion from the \$30.6-billion of the Senate proposal. The House version would have produced a \$17.6-billion cut. [1:6-7.]

The Interstate Commerce Commission, reversing its Jan. 30 stand, granted a 7 percent freight rate increase to most of the nation's railroads. The new decision said the railroads needed additional revenue to offset recently incurred operating costs and improve earnings. Without it, the I.C.C. said, earnings would be too low "to provide adequate and efficient" service. Products from some depressed industries including motor vehicles and parts, lumber and sugar beets, were exempted. The increase is expected to cost shippers \$44.9-million a year, part of which will be passed on to consumers. [1:4.]

Metropolitan

Ken McCreedy, president of the Patrolmen's Benevolent Association, said that its members had withdrawn their agreement to work five free tours to save the jobs of 481 rookies because the city was seeking a work schedule change that could cost them an additional 18 days. He called the City Hall change "not honorable" and an attempt at blackmail. Mayor Beame, asked if the rookies would have to be discharged said, "Unfortunately, yes." He said there were legal aspects to be decided. An aide said later that the city might challenge the legality of the shift by the P.B.A. leadership. [1:4.]

An all-out effort will be made next year to correct the acoustics of Avery Fisher Hall in Lincoln Center. The auditorium will be gutted and a completely new installation built under the supervision of Dr. Cyril M. Harris, acoustician, and Philip Johnson, architect. The appearance and, it is hoped, the sound quality will be completely different from those of the original Philharmonic Hall of 1962 or any of its subsequent acoustical renovations. The cost will come from a 1973 gift of Avery Fisher, and will be called the New Avery Fisher Hall. [1:2-5.]

Quotation of the Day

"We need a hall that is perfect, a supreme concert hall to represent the city. There was no point any longer taking halfway measures in relation to the hall. A fresh start was needed."—Avery Fisher, who is paying for rebuilding Avery Fisher Hall's auditorium. [4:1.]

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