

News Summary and Index

NWTimes

THURSDAY, APRIL 24, 1975

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The Major Events of the Day

International

The Senate, by a vote of 75 to 17, approved legislation that would give the President limited authority to use American troops to protect the evacuation of Americans and South Vietnamese from Saigon. Like a separate measure before the House of Representatives, it also authorizes emergency humanitarian aid for South Vietnam. But there was overwhelming opposition to any additional military aid to the Saigon Government, which had also been requested by President Ford. [1:5-8.]

Salgon's leaders were apparently attempting to form a new government acceptable to the Vietcong as a negotiating agent. Conversations were said to center on Lieut. Gen. Duong Van Minh, who led the coup that overthrew President Ngo Dinh Diem in 1963. But neither the Vietcong nor the North Vietnamese have been willing to offer a list of appropriate names for such a government. Fighting around Saigon was minimal. [1:5.]

Panic is clearly visible in Saigon as thousands of Vietnamese try to flee their country. A young American-trained economist offered an American \$10,000 to marry his wife, three months pregnant, and take her to the United States. Others are buying up sleeping pills and tranquilizers for suicide if the worst should come. [1:6-7.]

The North Vietnamese and Vietcong have told Washington through intermediaries that they do not wish to humiliate the United States in the coming days, but beyond that they do not even say whether they are prepared to negotiate. Authoritative Administration officials say the United States is asking the Communist for a safe evacuation for American citizens, for their dependents and for some other South Vietnamese. [1:7.]

President Ford said in a speech prepared for delivery to students at Tulane University that the war in Indochina was "finished—as far as America is concerned" and that the nation should develop an agenda for the future. He asked his audience to join in this process, moving beyond the discord of the past decade. [1:6-7.]

Defense Secretary James R. Schlesinger has assured the Israeli Ambassador, Simcha Dinitz, that the Ford Administration's current reassessment of its Middle East policies will not diminish continuing American support for Israel's supporters about the present freeze on new military aid. [1:4.]

National

The Los Alamos scientific laboratory has developed a technique that scientists believe will make it much simpler and cheaper to produce nuclear weapons and commercial nuclear power. It is also expected to complicate limiting the spread of nuclear weapons. The announcement came after disclosure that Soviet scientists had achieved the same technique. [1:1-3.]

The House Ways and Means Committee voted to give Congress until April, 1977, to cancel or modify the 20-cent increase in the Federal gasoline tax that is a key element in the energy conservation bill. The present draft would apply the tax on Jan. 15, 1977, if 1976 consumption exceeds the 1970 record high. The committee action reflected the basic ambivalence of many in Congress on taxing gasoline more heavily to discourage consumption. [2:7:1.]

Metropolitan

The State Health Department said in Albany that it would move next week to put Eugene Hollander, honorary president of the Metropolitan New York Nursing Home Association, out of business as a nursing home proprietor in the state. At the same time, Morris B. Abram, the Moreland Act commissioner, made public the testimony in closed hearings of employees of Mr. Hollander's Congress Nursing Home in Brooklyn. He said they had described neglect leading to deaths of patients, inedible and insufficient food, shortages of medicine and fraudulent records. [1:4:5.]

Charles D. Brettle, the chief judge of the Court of Appeals, granted Maurice H. Nadjar, the special state prosecutor, permission to appeal a lower-court decision throwing out the indictment of Thomas J. Mackell, former Queens District Attorney. But he sharply criticized Mr. Nadjar's office for attacking the honesty and integrity of the lower court and demanded that it apologize for including this material in its brief. [1:1-2.]

New Jersey's Secretary of State, J. Edward Crabiel, was found not guilty of charges that he conspired to rig bids and fix prices on public road construction contracts in the late nineteen-sixties. Superior Court Judge John A. Ackerman, who heard the case without a jury, ruled that the state had failed to prove its allegations beyond a reasonable doubt. Mr. Crabiel plans to resume his job. [1:1-2.]

The Other News

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"We are saddened, indeed, by events in Indochina. But these events, tragic as they are, portend neither the end of the world nor of America's leadership in the world. Some seem to feel that if we do not succeed in everything, everywhere, then we have succeeded in nothing anywhere."—President Ford. [1:6.]

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CORRECTIONS

An article and an accompanying table in The New York Times yesterday incorrectly reported the percentage decline in the first-quarter earnings of the Mobil Oil Corporation. Mobil's earnings fell 28 per cent in the period.

An article yesterday about a possible merger of the Charter Company of Jacksonville, Fla., with the Commonwealth Oil Company incorrectly reported the net income of Charter. The company earned \$40,251,000 in 1974.