News Summary and Index

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1976 FEB 17 1976

The Major Events of the Day

International

An influential Japanese business executive who is a director of All Nippon Airways denied yesterday that he had helped to sell Lockheed airbuses to the domestic airline. The executive, Kenji Osano, a confidant of former Prime Minister Kakuei Tanaka, was the first witness called before a parliamentary committee in Tokyo, which is holding a hearing on whether Japanese officials were improperly influenced and bribed to favor the purchase of Lockheed aircraft. [Page 1, Column 3.]

The European Market approved in principle a $1 billion loan to Italy, whose foreigncurrency reserves are down to $591 million as a result of speculation against the lira, and a $300 million loan to Ireland. An official of the E.E.C. said that the organization's finance ministers told its executive commission to examine the conditions for the loan to Italy in bilateral talks. If the talks succeed, the loans to Italy and Ireland would be made at current rates by an international banking consortium with capital mainly provided by Saudi Arabia. [1:4.]

National

President Ford changed his mind about keeping appropriations for elementary and secondary education at present levels, as he proposed in his budget, and will increase them instead. He also announced that he was submitting legislation to Congress to help keep the Federal Election Commission functioning. The commission has been declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court. [1:8.]

Patricia Hearst and the jury in her bank robbery trial visited the two places in the San Francisco area where she has said she was held by her kidnappers in a closet for almost two months. They were accompanied by the alternate jurors, Federal Judge Oliver J. Carter, staff members of the Federal District Court, Albert Johnson, one of the defense lawyers, and two members of the prosecution staff. Mr. Johnson said, "When she first saw the closet at Golden Gate Avenue, she sobbed. At one point I had to hold her up. I thought she was going to faint." [1:5-6.]

A descent of more than two miles in a submersible craft into the Cayman Trough on the Caribbean floor was recently made by members of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution in Massachusetts, accompanied by science observers. The walls of the trough, in places 22,000 feet high, are believed to expose layers raised from the earth's deep interior. The trough has been created by continuing movements in the earth that generate earthquakes from Guatemala to Haiti. The first of two articles on the diving expedition appears today. [1:1-2.]

Metropolitan

The Federal Reserve Board and the Treasury Department recently completed a close inspection in Albany of Governor Carey's proposed budget for the next fiscal year. The inspection was undertaken to determine for Federal officials involved in helping the state meet new borrowing needs this spring whether the budget was balanced. An aide to Governor Carey said the inspectors—who had spent "two or three days" in the Governor's budget office had been satisfied that the $10.76 billion budget was balanced and that its income expectations were aligned with proposed expenditures. [1:1-2.]

Judge Anthony J. Mercorella, who is under investigation by a special grand jury seeking to determine whether he purchased his Civil Court judgeship, is also the subject of a special grand jury inquiry into possible corruption in the State Liquor Authority. The S.L.A. investigation by Maurice H. Nadjari, the special state prosecutor, was disclosed in papers filed in State Supreme Court by Mr. Nadjari and Judge Mercorella as the judge sought a court order to dismiss a subpoena to testify before the jury investigating the S.L.A. [1:5-6.]

Under pressure from Representative Peter W. Rodino Jr., Democrat of New Jersey and chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, the Federal Law Enforcement Assistance Administration is continuing to finance an experimental crime-fighting project in Newark. The project's local director described it as a demonstration of "what not to do to reduce crime in the cities." Officials of the Federal agency said that Mr. Rodino, whose committee reviews the agency's operations, had threatened to cut off Congressional appropriations if the agency killed the project. The program was subsequently extended to the end of this year at a cost of $400,000. Mr. Rodino denied having made his support of the agency contingent on continuation of the Newark project. [1:7.]

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Quotation of the Day

"The Postal Service is in a financial bind and cannot foresee any hope of immediate relief for its operating deficit problems."—Postmaster General Benjamin F. Bailar. [34:3.]

CORRECTION

In a caption accompanying an article in The New York Times yesterday on superhousekeepers, Barbara Barrie, the actress, was incorrectly identified as Barbara Harris.