

News Summary and Index

NYTimes

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The Major Events of the Day

International

Enrico Berlinguer, chief of Italy's Communist Party, took a position strongly independent of the Soviet Communists in a speech yesterday at the 25th Soviet Party Congress in Moscow, dramatizing the widening rift between Soviet and Western European Communists. Expressing political views that have provoked growing displeasure from the Kremlin, Mr. Berlinguer told some 5,000 delegates that his party supported Italy's cooperation with diverse ideologies at home membership in the Atlantic alliance, sought and favored "a pluralistic and democratic system." [Page 1, Column 1.]

President Ford is expected to name Thomas S. Gates Jr., a banker and a former Defense Secretary, to succeed George Bush the new Director of Central Intelligence, as head of the United States liaison office in Peking. [1:2-3.]

Canadian Eskimo leaders presented to Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau and his Cabinet a formal claim to ownership of 250,000 square miles of land in northern Canada. In addition, the Eskimo leaders asked for special rights in 500,000 other square miles of land and 800,000 square miles of oceans. [1:1-3.]

National

Government statistics indicate that the economic recovery is gaining strength and that some analysts fears of an early end to the recovery might have been unduly pessimistic. The Commerce Department reported that the composite index of leading economic indicators—designed to show the way the economy is headed—moved sharply upward in January. After half a year of virtually no improvement, the index moved up 2.2 percent January to 106.3 percent of its level. The department also reported the first monthly trade deficit in a year. [1:8.]

The Supreme Court, voting 7 to 1, gave Congress three more weeks in which either to reconstitute the Federal Election Commission to meet the standards set by the Court last month or have the commission stripped of most of its powers. [1:4.]

Influenza has reached epidemic proportions in four regions of the country, but the Federal epidemiologists said that they did not expect a major nationwide epidemic this

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Metropolitan

The Consolidated Edison Company was granted a 5 percent increase in electricity rates by the Public Service Commission that is expected to bring the company \$114.4 million in additional annual revenues. The increase, the fifth since 1970—not counting month-by-month increases as a result of passing increases in Con Edison's fuel costs during the acute period of the energy crisis—will raise the bill of those using less than 250 kilowatt hours by no more than \$1 a month, the P.S.C. said. [1:6-7.]

The Emergency Financial Control Board formally approved an austerity measure that will take an average of \$6 a week from the paychecks of the city's 250,000 employees starting April 1. It did so in rescinding a fiscal device known as the "increased take-home pay," which was considered ingenious when it was introduced in the city's more solvent and free-wheeling days. It had been recently assailed as a "gimmick" that had to end in this new era of emergency fiscal reform. The board's action is expected to save the city \$85 million a year. [1:6-7.]

The Appellate Division of State Supreme Court delayed for at least two weeks an appearance by Patrick J. Cunningham, the state Democratic chairman, before a special grand jury investigating the possible sale of judgeships in the Bronx. He was to have made an appearance before the jury on Tuesday. The ruling also applied to three other Democratic Bronx figures: Jerry L. Crispin, Paul Victor and Gerald V. Esposto. [1:5-6.]

Calls from New Yorkers eager to offer their services to a city in crisis have swamped the Mayor's Volunteer Action Center in recent days. Hundreds of people, responding to appeals by the Citizens Committee for New York City for volunteers to work in public agencies and private nonprofit organizations, have called the action center at 250 Broadway, across from City Hall, since Wednesday. The center had been receiving only 10 calls a week. [1:4-5.]

Quotation of the Day

"We knew they were out there somewhere. This isn't a city of cold, distant people. New Yorkers want to help."—Winifred L. Brown, director of the Mayor's Voluntary Action Center, commenting on the response to a drive to recruit volunteers. [41:8.]

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CORRECTION

In an article in The New York Times yesterday on efforts to block the nomination of former Gov. Jimmy Carter of Georgia, it was incorrectly reported that several editors of The Washington Post attended a dinner party at which there was considerable anti-Carter comment. Only one Post editor—Phillip Geyelin, editor of the editorial page—was at the dinner, and Mr. Geyelin said he had not participated in the anti-Carter discussion.