

News Summary and Index

NYTimes TUESDAY, MARCH 16, 1976 MAR 16 1976

The Major Events of the Day

International

Two armored columns, apparently from the Lebanese Arab Army, headed today toward the heavily guarded mansion of President Suleiman Franjeh of Lebanon to back demands that he resign, but halted a few miles away. One of the columns was blocked by Syrian-backed guerrillas, increasing speculation that a political solution to Lebanon's tangled constitutional crisis might be near. It appeared that Syria, which helped bring about the cease-fire of Jan. 22 in the Lebanese civil war, was trying to work out an agreement under which Mr. Franjeh would quit. [Page 1, Col. 1.] Israeli military authorities imposed a total curfew in Ramallah on the West Bank of the Jordan River after another day of violent street demonstrations and protests against the continued Israeli occupation of the area. The total and indefinite curfew was an extreme measure that the West Bank military government normally reserves only for the most explosive situations. [1:3-4.]

The Central Intelligence Agency estimates that Israel has 10 to 20 nuclear weapons "available for use," according to an agency official quoted by a science writer in Washington. The estimate is well over previous American judgments of Israel's nuclear strength, both in quantity and in state of readiness. [1:2.]

A tax-fraud case against Ingmar Bergman, the Swedish movie director, has caused a wave of self-examination in Sweden, a debate over police powers and bitter accusations that the bureaucracy is hounding the nation's foremost artist. Mr. Bergman's career is in disarray. His current projects, including two new films and an opera production, have been canceled. [1:1-2.]

National

The Congressional Budget Office warned that, if the budget policies advocated by the Ford Administration were followed, the economic recovery might slow next year to the point where there would be no further decline in unemployment. If that happened, it would leave unemployment at a level of 7 percent or more and, in addition, the inflation rate would hardly be changed, the budget office estimated. [1:6-7.] Blue Cross and other health plans in sev-

eral states, including New York, will offer millions of subscribers in selected groups the opportunity to obtain at the plans' expense a second professional opinion before undergoing nonemergency surgery. All charges related to the second opinion—the doctor's fee and the cost of X-rays and laboratory tests that may be needed—will be paid for by the insurance plan. [1:5.]

Domestic bribes and kickbacks among American companies, although long recognized as a serious problem, are coming under new scrutiny as a result of disclosures of similar payoffs overseas. The Securities and Exchange Commission is investigating domestic payoffs in several industries, including brewers and construction companies. Payoffs are also reported as common in the apparel, printing, freight hauling, advertising, retailing and credit industries and they are far more widespread than had been acknowledged. [1:3-4.]

Metropolitan

A \$10.78 billion budget, restoring \$229 million in local assistance funds that Governor Carey had sought to cut and heavily reducing spending for drug abuse, mental hygiene, transportation and corrections, was submitted by Republican and Democratic leaders to members of the Legislature. Of all the state's local-assistance programs that Mr. Carey proposed, trimming to achieve a balanced budget, the legislative leaders' left only welfare and Medicaid cuts relatively intact. [1:8.]

Felix G. Rohatyn, the chief of Governor Carey's new economic recovery program, said that he was convinced that blighted areas of the city would have to be torn down wholesale and treated as virgin industrial-development land, as has been done in the suburbs and in the South. He said this was only one of a number of unusual ideas that, in the city's desperate situation, he and his aides would study. [1:6-7.]

Ramsey Clark, who was defeated by Senator Jacob K. Javits, a Republican, two years ago, announced that he would again seek the Democratic nomination, this time to oppose New York's other Senator, James L. Buckley, a Conservative-Republican. He said that Senator Buckley's record was "anticomsumer, antilabor and antipoor." That will be the basis of his campaign. [1:8.]

The Other News

International

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"Take a 30-block area, clear it, blacktop it, and develop an industrial park with the whole package of tax, employment, financing incentives already in place." —Felix G. Rohatyn, chairman of the Municipal Assistance Corporation, describing one method of ending the city's economic deterioration. [1:6.]

Quotation of the Day

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Miami-Los Angeles run denied to Pan Am. Page 47

Balanced U.S. energy policy is urged. Page 47

Korean secrecy raises doubts on oil. Page 47

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