

News Summary and Index

NYTimes THURSDAY, APRIL 22, 1976

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The Major Events of the Day

to shoulder against him as the Tuesday vote approaches. [1:5-6.]

President Ford accused Ronald Reagan of "preposterous" and "demagogic" statements in saying that the United States was slipping behind the Soviet Union in military preparedness. In an address to the annual congress of the Daughters of the American Revolution in Washington, Mr. Ford suggested that Mr. Reagan was seizing on the defense issue because "a grab bag of other issues has been tried and failed." The sharpness of Mr. Ford's response indicated concern that his challenger was making it the key issue in the Republican primary in Texas which will take place May 1. [1:7.]

Executives of the Summa Corporation, the umbrella corporation of the late billionnaire Howard R. Hughes, are preparing to extend their search for his will to 40 American cities where he was known to have lived or stayed. One source said that the company's investigators would soon canvass banks in New York and elsewhere looking for a safe deposit box that might contain the document. This was presaged by classified newspaper advertisements asking information, a legal prerequisite for such a search. [1:1-2.]

Metropolitan

A test case challenging the state's use of the property tax to finance public education went to trial in State Supreme Court in Mineola, L.I. Twenty-five suburban and rural school districts and the state's four largest cities brought the action. It is the latest in many parts of the country following a California Supreme Court ruling in 1971 that this kind of school funding discriminates invidiously against the poor by making the quality of a child's education a function of his parents' and neighbors' wealth. [1:1-2.]

Governor Byrne of New Jersey indicated pessimism for the first time over the fate of the graduated income tax bill. He expressed doubt that the State Senate would pass the measure until the New Jersey Supreme Court delineated exactly what it would do to finance public schools if the Legislature failed to act. The Legislature is under court mandate to change the system of financial aid to the public schools, and has already enacted a measure setting new school standards and containing a new school-aid formula. [1:7-8.]

Jimmy Carter has entered the second phase of the Presidential campaign in the anomalous position of a front-runner still searching for a solid base in the Democratic Party. The perils are writ large for him in Pennsylvania, where primary politics are more like a convention than a popularity contest, with power blocs standing shoulder

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Quotation of the Day
"Recent charges that the United States is in a position of military inferiority and that we have accepted Soviet world domination are complete and utter nonsense."—President Ford. [1:7.]

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CORRECTION

Because of an editing error, it was incorrectly stated in The Times yesterday that Wilma Soss attended the New York Times Company stockholders' meeting. She was represented by another stockholder.