News Summary and Index

NYTimes SATURDAY, MAY 8, 1976 MAY 8 1976

The Major Events of the Day

International

The known death toll in the earthquake that struck northeastern Italy Thursday night climbed into the many hundreds. Several hundred people were reported missing and more than 1,000 were injured. The quake turned villages at the foothills of the Alps into rubble and its tremors were felt in six countries. [Page 1, Column 8.]

A long-delayed meeting of 28 East and West European Communist parties will be held in East Berlin after Italy's general elections in June, according to party members who attended a preliminary meeting in East Berlin. French and Italian Communists, supported at times by Yugoslavs and Rumanians, had held up the conference for more than a year by objecting to the Soviet Union's claim to leadership of the international Communist movement. The Russians reportedly have since made important concessions to supporters of an "independent" party line in the West. [1:7.]

The Spanish Government proposed a two-house parliament in which the entire lower house and most of the senate would be directly elected. The house would have 300 members and the senate 285. The proposals were more liberal than a general plan announced last week by Prime Minister Carlos Arias Navarro. The Government also recognized for the first time the right of workers to form labor unions outside the state-run syndicates. [1:5-6.]

President Ford vetoed a $4.4 billion foreign aid bill on the ground that "unprecedented restrictions" in the bill would "seriously inhibit my ability to implement a coherent and consistent foreign policy." He had told leaders in Congress two weeks ago that he would probably not approve the measure, which provided authorization for economic and military aid for the fiscal year ending June 30 and for the three-month interval before the start of the 1977 fiscal year on Oct. 1. [1:3.]

National

The number of employed people rose in April, setting a record for a month, but the national unemployment rate was unchanged at the recession level of 7.5 percent, according to the Labor Department's monthly employment report. The number of employed persons last month rose by 707,000 to 87.4 million, exceeding the March 1975 recession low by nearly 3.3 million. The total number of unemployed people was 7,040,000, seasonally unchanged from March. [1:1-2.]

The Allied Chemical Corporation was indicted by a Federal grand jury in Richmond on 1,094 criminal charges in the discharging of the ant poison Kepone into the James River. The discharges have forced a shutdown of a multimillion-dollar fishing industry. Employees of the Life Science Products Company, which produced Kepone for Allied Chemical, are suing Allied for more than $100 million, contending that they suffered Kepone poisoning after exposure to dust from the pesticide. [1:1-2.]

A newspaperwoman whose alleged "special relationship" with the Federal Bureau of Investigation was reported to Congress last week has been dismiissed by The Nashville Tennessean, where she had been employed as a copy editor and writer. Jacque Srouji said the dismissal had resulted from a charge that she had been an undercover agent for the F.B.I., which she denied. Mrs. Srouji's contacts with the bureau are of interest to Congress because of the recent report by the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence Activities that the bureau had used persons employed by news organizations as part of its broad effort to hurt the reputations of citizens and organizations selected as "targets." [1:8.]

Metropolitan

Owners of apartment houses struck by a building service employees union withdrew their demands for reductions in contract benefits and made their first money offer to union negotiators—a $25 package over a three-year contract period. But John J. Sweeney, president of Local 32B of the Service Employees International Union said the proposal was inadequate and rejected it. Edward Sulzberger, chairman of the Realty Advisory Board, an owners' group, said that the offer was a "final one." [1:4.]

Brooks Brothers has informed its customers that it is phasing out its custom-tailoring of all cloth goods, which has been a Brooks specialty since the store was founded in Manhattan in 1818. Frank T. Reilly, the president, said the service was being ended because of a scarcity of qualified tailors and the declining demand for made-to-order suits, which cost $500 to $600. [1:1-3.]

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Quotation of the Day

"At first my family rushed under one of the beams in the living room and then, frightened, we ran outside. Our walls cracked but the house remained upright. Look at that poor bell tower over there. It's leaning now."
—Umberto Lucardi, telling of earthquake in Italy. [8:4.]

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CORRECTIONS

It was incorrectly stated in The Times yesterday that the Board of Education intended to give contracts to private agencies for school mental-health programs. The school board is opposed to the idea.

In an article last Saturday on the marriage of Marilyn Casselman to Samuel Oscar Johnson Spivy, the bridegroom's surname was incorrectly given.