

News Summary and Index

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 18, 1976 AUG 18 1976

Republican Convention

President Ford's delegate count at the Republican National Convention mounted steadily as his challenger for the nomination, Ronald Reagan, dug in for a last-ditch fight despite the first signs of defeatism in his camp. A vote neared on his attempt to force Mr. Ford to name his Vice-Presidential choice before today's Presidential roll-call. The President's chief delegate-hunter said the outcome of this vote on Rule 16-C would be close. Some Ford delegates were said to be ready to back Mr. Reagan on the rule vote, but this appeared more than offset by the decision of the bitterly divided Mississippi delegation to oppose the Reagan position. [Page 1, Columns 5-8.]

Sources close to President Ford said he seemed most likely to choose Senator Howard H. Baker, Jr. of Tennessee or William D. Ruckelshaus, who resigned as Deputy Attorney General from the Nixon Administration, as his Vice Presidential running mate. Mr. Ford, if nominated today, it was said, would confer with Mr. Reagan to ask if he would consent to be considered for the slate. Because of strong doubt in the Ford camp that Mr. Reagan would accept, the other two names are close to the center of the stage. He has stood against second place and full financial disclosure. [1:5.]

International

The Philippine disaster control center in Manila said the earthquake that struck the southern island of Mindanao left 1,744 people dead, 2,094 missing and some 28,000 homeless following the tremor and tidal wave sweeping coastal regions. President Ferdinand E. Marcos declared a national emergency on Mindanao and in the Sulu Archipelago. [1:1-3.]

The Palestinian guerrilla movement is fighting for survival after 16 months of involvement in the civil war in Lebanon and two and a half months of confrontation with Syria. The fall of the refugee camp at Tell Zaatar has reinforced the Palestinians' view that their destruction is the major objective of the fighting. Right-wing Christians agree, seeing the conflict as not so much between rightist and leftist Lebanese as between the Lebanese and Palestinians. The major threat to the Palestinians is Syria, once their major supporter and supplier. [1:1-2.]

The Major Events of the Day

National

W. Mark Felt, a former associate director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation who retired in 1973, said he had authorized in 1972 the commission of two burglaries by agents engaged in domestic intelligence investigations. It was the first acknowledgment by a senior F.B.I. executive of responsibility for any of the burglaries currently the subject of a criminal inquiry by the Department of Justice. Mr. Felt first said he acted after an assurance of approval by the then acting F.B.I. Director, L. Patrick Gray 3d, but after Mr. Gray's lawyer denied approving any illegal act he said his recollection was "hazy." [1:3.]

Gangs of black youths in Detroit who have been terrorizing black and white shopkeepers and pedestrians on the city's East Side in recent weeks, have taken their violence to downtown areas with hit-and-run attacks on buses and stores. Sunday night, several hundred gang members invaded a rock concert in Cobo Hall. At stake is the effort led by Detroit's first black mayor, Coleman Young, at revival. [1:1-3.]

Metropolitan

Justice Thurgood Marshall of the United States Supreme Court turned down an attempt by lawyers for New York State, Suffolk County, Nassau County and the Natural Resources Defense Council to block the Federal Government's first oil lease sale for the Atlantic Ocean. He upheld the decision on Monday of the Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit to lift the preliminary injunction against the sale granted on Friday by Judge Jack B. Weinstein in Federal District Court in Brooklyn. Judge Weinstein had found a deficiency in the Interior Department's environmental impact statement concerning drilling for offshore oil from Long Island to Virginia. [1:4.]

New York City's director of leasing, Michael R. Palumbo, who arranges the city's payment of \$87 million a year in rents, was arrested on a charge of soliciting and accepting a gratuity of \$3,000 from a real estate agent. It was the first indictment in a continuing investigation of city leases, centering on the Department of Real Estate and the day-care-center program. He pleaded not guilty and was promptly suspended without pay from his \$22,065-a-year job [1:2.]

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"In the big leagues of world leadership, they rarely play softball."—John B. Connally, calling for Republican leadership of the nation in his address to the Republican National Convention. [22:2.]

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