

# News Summary

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## International

With the vote of confidence in his coalition Government that he sought from Parliament, Menahem Begin became Israel's Prime Minister. He said prevention of another war in the Middle East was his primary concern. His new Government won a vote of confidence from 63 members of Parliament, two more than the majority of 61 that was needed. He presented 12 members of his coalition Cabinet, leaving three posts temporarily vacant as an enticement to another party to join the Government. [Page 1, Column 5.]

Leonid I. Brezhnev, the Soviet leader, arrived in Paris for three days of talks with President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing that were expected to touch on détente, nuclear issues, trade and possibly provide some mention of views on the Middle East and Africa. He received an elaborately formal welcome in Paris under extraordinary security measures. It was his first visit to the West since a visit to France in December 1974. [1:2-3.]

## National

The Supreme Court ruled, 6 to 3, that neither the Constitution nor Federal law required states to spend Medicaid funds for elective abortions. By the same vote, the Court ruled that cities and towns that had public hospitals were not required under the Constitution to provide or even permit elective abortions in those hospitals. [1:6.]

The Navy has been under powerful pressure from the Speaker of the House, Thomas P. O'Neill Jr., and the Senators from Massachusetts to keep a controversial and expensive fighter-plane program it had planned to drop. Pentagon sources said that the plane, the F-18, had been set to be cut from the budget for fiscal 1979. Its engine is produced at a General Electric Company plant in Lynn, Mass. Senators Edward M. Kennedy and Edward W.

Brooke helped Mr. O'Neill, who is from Massachusetts, too, to exert the pressure on the White House and the Pentagon. Full production of the F-18 would mean 5,000 to 6,000 jobs in the Lynn area. [1:4.]

The wealth of oil under the tundra of Alaska's North Slope began moving nearly 800 miles southward to ice-free harbors through the \$7.7 billion trans-Alaska pipeline just completed by a consortium of eight oil companies. A technician pushed buttons to start the historic flow, from an oil field whose production is expected to reach 1.2 million barrels a day by autumn. [1:4-5.]

After the reported personal intervention of President Carter, the Immigration and Naturalization Service admitted Mexican workers who will pick crops in southwestern Texas over the objection of the Labor Department. Allowing 809 Mexicans to work in the fields around Presidio, Tex., was "in the national interest," Immigration Commissioner Leonel J. Castillo said, because onion crops were in danger of rotting. It was a "bail out" for growers who failed to provide adequate housing for the migrants, who are also paid far below the United States minimum, the Labor Department said. [1:2-3.]

Unsuspecting consumers in New York, Detroit and Chicago have been buying as table fare lake trout from Lake Michigan contaminated by the toxic chemical PCB. The trout are being illegally caught by what Michigan and Federal officials call "renegade" fishermen. Agents trying to stop the fishing have been stoned and shot at and have been targets of high-speed, near-miss boat attacks. [1:1-2.]

## Metropolitan

A number of nursing homes in New York State are being operated by 12 owners who have recently been convicted of felonies or misdemeanors. They have been able to do so, State

Health Commissioner Robert P. Whalen said, by "using every legal device and delaying mechanism available." One owner got an order from the State Court of Appeals requiring the State Health Department to authorize 90 more beds for her establishment. The department, in the meantime, has been trying to revoke her license. [1:1.]

A new weekly lottery game, based in part on the illegal numbers game, was announced by New York State's lottery director, John D. Quinn. Starting late this summer, under present plans, lottery players will be able to buy subscriptions and bet numbers of their choice. Mr. Quinn said he also intends to encourage players living outside New York to play the game, which is against Federal postal laws, but he believes that the interstate sale of tickets could "be done in such a way as to comply with the law." [6:3.]

## Business/Finance

Congress was urged by the two top Federal financial officials to permit banks in all 50 states to pay interest on checking accounts and similar deposits. Arthur F. Burns, chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, and Treasury Secretary W. Michael Blumenthal testified before a Senate banking subcommittee on a bill that would authorize interest-bearing NOW—negotiable orders of withdrawal—accounts, now available in New England, to be offered in the rest of the nation. The bill, drawn up by the Treasury with the cooperation of the Federal Reserve, faces obstacles in Congress. [4:5-6.]

The House Ways and Means Committee accepted with minor modifications President Carter's proposals for business tax incentives that are intended to encourage fuel conservation and conversions away from oil and gas. The conversion program would offer business two choices to spur investment in conversions. [4:1.]

Optimistic economic predictions by a private business research group, the Conference Board, were attributed to a moderate advance in stock prices. The Dow Jones industrial average, moving in a narrow range throughout the session, closed up 3.82 points to 924.27. Advancing stocks outnumbered declining ones 9 to 5. [4:2-3.]

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## Quotation of the Day

"Our prime concern is prevention of a new war in the Middle East. I call upon King Hussein, President Sadat and President Assad to meet with me—whether in our capitals or on neutral soil, in public or away from the spotlights of publicity—in order to discuss the establishment of true peace between their countries and Israel. Should this plea encounter refusal, we shall make a note of Arab intransigence."—Menahem Begin, addressing the Israeli Parliament as he became the country's sixth Prime Minister. [9:1.]

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## CORRECTION

On the basis of an inaccurate news release, it was incorrectly reported in yesterday's editions of The Times that Prof. ~~L.~~ J. Seidler will succeed the late Mansel F. Cohen as chairman of the Commission on Auditors' Responsibilities. The chairmanship will remain vacant. Professor Seidler will preside as deputy chairman over the commission's public hearings beginning today in Washington.