

The original documents are located in Box 21, folder “Vice President - Rockefeller Swearing-in” of the Robert T. Hartmann Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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NEWS SUMMARY
December 17, 1974
Tuesday's networks, wires

The major stories:

- The state of the economy was the lead story on all networks.
- Secretary of Treasury Simon told the Senate Budget Committee that he still feels inflation is the major culprit in the economy. He said efforts to stimulate the economy to fight recession would only boost inflation and lead to "economic disaster." Simon said unemployment, now 6.5 per cent, probably will go to 7.5 per cent next year.
- President Ford demanded that the U.S. Steel Corp. submit to the government justification for its announced price increases averaging 8 per cent. He said the action of Big Steel caused him "concern and disappointment."
- The Commerce Department reported starts on new housing in November dropped to the lowest levels in eight years.
- The Federal Energy Administration reported it had obtained price rollbacks by 15 oil companies totaling \$77 million. The rollbacks were to correct alleged overcharges.
- M. S. Mitchell, president, Safeway Stores, Inc. denied store profits were a significant factor in high food prices.
- The dollar plunged in Europe, hitting a new low in Zurich. Gold climbed back to \$189 an ounce, just \$1 below its record high.
- Sen. Hugh Scott, at the White House, predicted President Ford soon will recommend some drastic actions to improve the economy.
- Congress cleared the way for adjournment by the end of the week.
- "As obstacles tumbled, the 93rd Congress headed for a trouble-free end," said UPI. "The televised swearing-in of Nelson Rockefeller as Vice President Thursday in the Senate Chamber could provide the finishing touch."
- The Senate passed a compromise \$2.69-billion foreign aid authorization bill that would allow resumption of military aid to Turkey until Feb. 5. Secretary of State Kissinger met with House leaders in Speaker Albert's office Monday night and obtained the compromise that reopened the aid to Turkey program.

- Senate-House conferees agreed to terms for a \$5.5 billion bill authorizing 330,000 public service jobs, public works projects, and emergency unemployment compensation benefits. The House Appropriations Committee voted a \$4 billion appropriation.
- The Senate approved and sent to the White House legislation to pump up to \$20 billion over ten years into research and development of non-nuclear energy sources such as oil shale and solar power.
- The Senate approved Sen. Russell B. Long's "work bonus" bill which would pay bonuses of up to \$400 a year to poor working families, and sent the measure to the House, where it died last year.
- The House approved and sent to the White House two Veterans benefits bills. One would provide additional home-buying benefits. The other would increase educational benefits for disabled veterans taking rehabilitation training by 22 per cent.
- President Ford signed the safe drinking water bill.
- Roy Ash resigned as director of the Office of Management and Budget. He will stay to help complete the 1976 Budget.
- President Ford announced he would leave Washington Sunday at 8 a.m. for a Christmas vacation in Vail, Colo. He said he expected to be working much of every day.
- Gardner Britt, the friend of Susan Ford, tells the Ladies Home Journal that he and Susan agreed that woman's place is in the home.

FROM THE WIRES

Arabs Make Record Loan to World Bank

Washington (AP) -- The World Bank announced today it has borrowed \$750 million from Saudi Arabia, the largest single borrowing operation in the bank's history. But it was clear the Saudis drove a hard bargain. The loan was for 10 years at 8.5 per cent interest, while most bank borrowings are about 8 per cent for an average of 12 years. The Saudi loan will be in U.S. dollars and thus is another way in which surplus funds will be recycled from oil-producing nations to countries that need them.

A statement by the World Bank said the Saudi loan will be used in the general operations of the bank. The World Bank makes loans for development projects in less-developed nations.

Simon Predicts Unemployment Increase

All networks reported that Treasury Secretary Simon, testifying before the Senate Budget Committee predicted that unemployment will reach 7.5 per cent before the economy improves.

NBC's John Chancellor reported it was the highest forecast the administration has made on unemployment although private economists have forecast 8 per cent unemployment next year.

Despite his prediction, Simon argued against a big increase in government spending, NBC/CBS reported.

Simon (on film) said actions to fight recession could increase inflation. He called the inflation/recession situation "a two-headed monster."

Simon said a tax surcharge would be one of the economists' options offered to the President next week, but refused to specify the administration's coming economic policy.

"Most observers believe the President's proposal for a tax increase stands no chance of passage," NBC's Ford Rowan said.

ABC's Steve Bell said that despite the projected unemployment increase, Simon "stuck close to the old time religion of economics in prescribing a cure for both recession and inflation."

Simon on ABC film said that inflation and the weak economy will worsen unless the government pursues responsible fiscal and monetary policies. Therefore, Simon said, the top priority for the executive and legislative branches should be to "get our fiscal house in order."

President Criticizes Steel Price Hikes

ABC's Steve Bell said President Ford "reacted sharply" to the decision by the U.S. Steel Corp. to raise prices by an average 8 per cent on much of its product line. Phil Jones on CBS said "the White House is clearly upset" by the decision. NBC's John Chancellor said President Ford "did some jawboning today, expressing his displeasure with the decision of U.S. Steel."

All networks said Ford ordered the Wage and Price Stability Council to seek an immediate written justification from the company.

"The President was described as concerned and disappointed by the price boost and ABC News has learned that late this afternoon the President was still being asked by aides to consider the kind of jawboning that has occasionally been used by other Presidents to successfully force a roll-back of proposed price increases," Bell said.

Reasoner added that a U.S. Steel spokesman said the company would not comment now on the President's position.

NBC's Tom Brokaw said "There is no word from the White House on what President Ford will do if the giant steel producer decides to keep the prices up."

Housing Starts Decline in November

The networks said the government announcement that the number of housing units started in November -- 990,000 -- was the lowest in eight years. ABC said the number of new building permits issued, dropped to an annual rate of 720,000, the fewest since 1960, when the government began keeping records.

FEA On Oil Price Rollbacks

The Federal Energy Administration claimed it has gotten 15 oil companies to roll back the prices on some petroleum products by \$77 million, NBC reported. FEA said the companies were overcharging their customers.

Safeway President Discounts Profits Relation to Prices

ABC/CBS reported that W.S. Mitchell, President, Safeway Stores, Inc., the nation's largest grocery chain, told Congress that supermarket profits are not a significant factor in high grocery prices.

Dollar Hits New Low in Switzerland

ABC/CBS reported that the dollar dropped sharply on most European money markets, hitting a new low in Switzerland. Meanwhile, gold rose by \$6 dollars in London to \$189 per ounce. Harry Reasoner (ABC) said analysts believe this increase was a result of the Ford-d'Estaing agreement that central banks should be able to value their gold at market prices.

Scott Predicts President May Declare Economic Emergency

All networks carried statements made on the White House lawn after the Congressional leadership meeting with the President by Sen. Hugh Scott (R., Pa.), the minority leader. Scott (on NBC) said the President is considering a national economic emergency declaration. On ABC's film, Scott said he recommended that the President come up with some sharp new economic remedies before Congress returns next year. Scott also gave similar views on CBS.

President Briefs Congressional Leaders on Martinique

ABC/CBS (on film) reported that President Ford briefed congressional leaders on the results of his talks with French President Giscard d-Estaing in Martinique. Phil Jones (CBS) said the President told the leaders that it was a good summit, that it was not a pleasure trip and, by his calculation, he had spent 16 to 18 hours in actual negotiation.

"This was about triple the time indicated in previous White House press office accounts," Jones said.

NBC and CBS Covered Sen. Hugh Scott (R., Pa.) after the meeting. Scott was asked if he shares Sen. Barry Goldwater's (R. ARiz.) view that the President should park Air Force One in the hangar.

Sen. Scott (on film) said: "I think the President has that message pretty well in mind -- it isn't necessary to repeat it. I think he knows there are problems here and he's working on the State of the Union message, of course," Scott said.

NBC gave a similar report. On NBC film, Scott referred to a Senate floor speech Monday by Sen. Bill Brock (R., Tenn.), in which he called the current situation "an economic Pearl Harbor."

Rockefeller Will Be Sworn In Thursday

ABC/CBS reported that congressional leaders said that Thursday the full House will debate the nomination of Vice President-designate Nelson Rockefeller, that the House will confirm him, and that one hour later he will be sworn into office in the Senate chamber. CBS said it will broadcast the ceremony, the exact time is uncertain.

Congress Agrees on Aid to Turkey until February

Shortly after he returned from Martinique Monday night, Secretary of State Kissinger went before House leaders to ask them to go along with the Senate in agreeing to an extension in American aid to Turkey until early February. He said the shut-off in Turkish aid ordered by Congress last week complicated his efforts to obtain peace on Cyprus. The House returned to conference with the Senate Tuesday morning and an extension of aid to Turkey until Feb. 5 was approved. The Senate approved the conference report and sent it to the House. The House Rules Committee cleared for a House vote Wednesday a foreign aid continuing resolution which would allow foreign aid spending, including the Turkish compromise, at last year's spending levels.

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Conference Committee Approves \$5.5 billion for Unemployed

House and Senate conferees agreed on a bill authorizing \$5.5 billion for unemployment programs, all networks reported. One-half of the money would be used to create 330,000 public service jobs. The rest would provide unemployment compensation for those not already entitled to the benefits, and for some public works projects.

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Roy Ash Resigns

All networks reported that the President accepted the resignation of Roy Ash, director of the Office of Management and Budget, with praise for Ash's dedication and ability. Harry Reasoner (ABC) said White House sources predict that Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development James Lynn will be appointed as Ash's successor.

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President Leaves on Vacation Sunday

President Ford said Tuesday the first family will leave early next Sunday to spend the Christmas and New Year's holidays in Vail, Colorado, and he planned to make it a working vacation.

"I'm going to work a good part of every day," Ford told reporters in his Oval Office.

"Eight o'clock Sunday morning," said Ford when asked when he and the family plan to leave for the Colorado ski resort.

The President said he had talked by telephone with his son Jack, 22, in Aspen, Colo., "And he said there was skiing."

The President will be taking his wife Betty and daughter Susan, 17, along to Vail, where the Ford family has spent a number of winter holidays before.

Mrs. Ford said earlier she thought other family members and friends would be coming by during the visit, expected to end a day or two after New Year's.

"I'm going to have to get my ski legs in shape," Ford told reporters en route to Washington Monday after the Martinique summit meeting.

This will be Ford's first trip to Vail as President. In previous years the family went there for the Yuletide Holidays and stayed in a \$50,000 condominium which Ford owns.

But because of security requirements and the need for more privacy, Ford is swapping residences with his friend Harry Bass, a multi-millionaire Texan who is permitting Ford to lease his five-bedroom chalet.

The Bass home is in a cul-de-sac at the base of the skiing mountain near the main part of the resort village. The White House has rented two neighboring houses for Presidential aides and security men.

Ford will be taking along only a skeleton staff and has put out the word that he does not view the Vail home as a winter White House. Some of his senior advisers will be flying out from time to time over the holidays to help Ford wrap up his State of the Union address which he will deliver to Congress in mid-January.

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Gardner Britt Says Women Belong in Home

Walter Cronkite (CBS) reported that Gardner Britt, a friend of Susan Ford, "has come out as a full-fledged male chauvinist." In an interview with Ladies' Home Journal, Britt said that he and Susan both agreed that a woman's place is in the home.

Of Susan, he said: "I don't think she'll be a professional woman or anything. She'll be the average mother on the block."

Cronkite said Britt also said Susan is not like some of those "Miss Teenage Americas" who always have some fancy career in mind, like nursing.

Of Britt's male chauvinism, Susan says: "I give in to him too easily." She also said she wants a house in the country with lots of children, dogs, cats and horses, Cronkite reported.

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Levi Appointment Irks Some Republicans

ABC/CBS reported that Edward Levi, widely reported to be the replacement for Atty. Gen. William Saxbe, conferred with some members of the Senate Judiciary Committee Tuesday.

Sen. John Tower (R., Tex.) said he believes President Ford will decide against the nomination of Levi.

On ABC film Tower said:

"There seems to be some rather strong opposition to him among Republicans. I don't hear any of them expressing a great deal of enthusiasm about him. As one Senator said to me, 'I don't see why we have to reach back into the cesspool of the New Deal to come up with Attorney General.' That just gives you an indication of how some of the boys feel."

Tower would not name the senator who made the remark.

On CBS, Tower said Levi has had a reputation as a liberal Democrat, as a former member of the Lawyers Guild, "and that sort of thing." Tower said the Lawyers Guild is a "very left wing" group. The CBS report also included the film clip of Tower's reference to reaching back into the New Deal cesspool.

Roger Mudd reported that Sen. Howard Baker (R., Tenn.) said that if both Senators James Eastland (D., Miss.) and Roman Hruska (R., Neb.) tell President Ford to back down on the Levi nomination, and the President refuses, "that's going to be the best game in town."

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Watergate Coverup Trial Nearing End

The networks said the taking of testimony in the Watergate Coverup Trial may end Wednesday. Final summations may take a few days, ABC reported. Judge John Sirica said he would not make his final charge to the jury until the day after Christmas.

All networks reported that before Kenneth Parkinson opened his defense in the Watergate cover-up trial, a series of dignitaries -- among them Sen. Barry Goldwater (R., Ariz.) and civil rights leader James Farmer -- appeared as character witnesses for defendant Robert Mardian.

"Mardian's most difficult moment today came not from the prosecution but from Jacob Stein, the attorney for Kenneth Parkinson, whose legal firm was hired by Mardian to defend the Committee to Re-elect the President a few days after the Watergate break-in," Frank Reynolds (ABC) said. "Stein drew from Mardian the admission that when he hired Parkinson, he did not tell him all he knew about the Committee's involvement with the burglars and he reminded Mardian that the witness himself had once described his relationship with Parkinson as less than honest."

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Rabbi Korff Holds News Conference

CBS reported that Nixon supported Rabbi Baruch Korff called a news conference Tuesday in which Korff called on the Congress and media to call a moratorium on former President Nixon in the spirit of the Christmas season. Korff (on film) said that from recent telephone conversations he has had with Nixon, he has the impression that Nixon is "terribly tormented" by bills and legal expenses.

"He was depressed by the legislation that, in effect, amounted to an impoundment of his papers," Korff said.

Barry Serafin reported that Korff said his group has paid \$80,000 of Nixon's legal and medical bills and is out of money, with \$193,000 left to be paid.

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Open Street Past Key Biscayne White House

ABC/CBS reported that by a vote of five to three Florida's Dade County Commission decided not to grant a request from former President Richard Nixon and some of his neighbors that the street in front of his Key Biscayne property be made a private road. Charles Murphy (ABC) said the decision means that when Secret Service protection is lifted from the area this week, the disputed Bay Lane will be open to the public. While Nixon-friend Bebe Rebozo was attending the hearing his bank on Key Biscayne was robbed, affording reporters a chance to question Rebozo. He told newsmen that the Nixons were fine but that the street opening decision lessened the chances that they would return to the Key Biscayne house.

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Woodcock Call for Washington Demonstration

CBS reported that United Auto Workers president Leonard Woodcock called "for a mass demonstration" in Washington, D.C. on Feb. 5 to demand a 10 per cent across-the-board income tax cut to spur the economy.

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Cadillac Assembly Puts in Overtime

CBS' Ike Pappas reported that assembly-line workers for Cadillac are putting in overtime and still cannot keep up with sales, even though sales are down 24 per cent from 1973. December sales "boomed" 18 per cent over Dec. 1973, Pappas said.

A Cadillac spokesman (on film) explained that persons who buy Cadillacs are not affected by the current economic problems. However, Pappas said customer loyalty has much to do with the good sales.

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Army Convicts Private Who Would Not Cut His Hair

CBS reported that a U.S. Army Special Courts-Martial convicted one of six enlisted men in the Berlin command of refusing to obey haircut orders.

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Earthquakes in Hawaii

ABC reported that earthquakes shook Hawaii's Mauna Loa Mountain and that scientists believe that the volcano there may erupt soon. Officials at the Hawaii Volcano Observatory said all elements for an eruption are present except for underground movement of molten rock.

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Kissinger Indicates Support for Lifting of Cuban Sanctions

ABC said that Secretary of State Henry Kissinger was reported Tuesday to be willing to support a move in the Organization of American States that could mean an end to the diplomatic and economic sanctions against Cuba. Sol Winowitz, former U.S. Ambassador to the OAS, told newsmen that Kissinger told the Commission on U.S.-Latin American Relations that current U.S. policy on Cuba may be changed, possibly at the next OAS foreign ministers meeting in March.

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Oil Consumption under Voluntary Controls

NBC did a 5-minute report on oil consumption remaining high without mandatory controls in the U.S.

In Britain, NBC said, the price of gasoline will rise to \$1.43 a gallon Friday to reduce consumption. The Common Market claimed its members cut between 4 and 23 per cent of their

oil consumption in the first half of this year compared with the same period last year. In the United States, oil consumption was reduced by 5 per cent, NBC said.

Power consumption is down 8 per cent; compared to 18 per cent reduction last year. Gasoline consumption has been climbing. Savings now are less than half what they were under last winter's allocations. NBC reported.

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President Entertained Congress

All networks briefly reported that President and Mrs. Ford would be entertaining Members of Congress and their wives at a White House ball Tuesday night.

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Segregation in the North

The U.S. Civil Rights Commission cited the Boston busing situation Tuesday as evidence of continuing school segregation in the North. The Commission said that 20 years after the U.S. Supreme Court's desegregation decision, integration of schools is nowhere near an accomplished fact, especially in the North, NBC reported. NBC's Gordon Graham reported HEW's Civil Rights Director, Peter Holmes, did not appear at the Commission hearings Tuesday, but sent a letter in which he defended himself against criticism of HEW's past performance. The Commission called for a national desegregation policy.

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Communism in Italy

NBC gave a 4:10 minute report on communism in Italy, as part of the first of a series on Communism in Western Europe. In Italy, David Burrington reported, communists control almost 30 per cent of the vote and "the question appears to be not whether they'll be asked to help run the government, but when." As a result, the communists are trying to create a new image of respectability -- totally against violence, Burrington said. Italy's new government has flatly refused any communist participation in the cabinet -- "much to the relief of the U.S. State Department."

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Sales of Nuclear Power Plants in the Middle East

ABC said that recent reports indicated that Israel was not interested in buying nuclear power plants from the U.S. because of the inspection requirements involved. The U.S. had previously offered the plants to both Israel and Egypt. ABC/CBS reported the State Department said that it will still go ahead with the sale to Egypt, even if the Israeli deal falls through.

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Sadat Interview

Egypt's President Anwar Sadat said he would have liked more diplomatic progress in settling Mideast conflicts than has taken place since the last war, in an exclusive interview on ABC. He said he is a man of realities, however, and does not dream. In the next three months, Sadat said he

would like to see the momentum for a settlement accelerated. Sadat said he is ready for peace with Israel and expressed an interest in having the U.S., which he said is a friend of both Egypt and Israel, intercede in the peace negotiations.

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Israelis Discuss Military Capability

All networks reported that Israeli Gen. Sharron said today that Egypt is capable of mounting a new offensive against his country and could move 1500 tanks and 100,000 men across the Suez Canal overnight.

NBC reported the Israeli Defense Minister Peres said the Syrians now have more Russian arms than they had before the October 1973 war, including 300 planes and 1,000 tanks.

Israeli Prime Minister Rabin was quoted in a West German newspaper as saying Israel is ready to fight and is well enough armed with conventional weapons that nuclear weapons will not be needed, NBC reported.

But Jordan's King Hussein was quoted in a London paper as saying that, in certain circumstances, Israel would use nuclear weapons, and he thinks the prospect for war is very real, NBC reported.

NBC also quoted former Undersecretary of State, George Ball, as saying that war may break out in the Mideast next spring. Ball, in an article in Atlantic Monthly, said Henry Kissinger's "shuttle diplomacy" has not worked and Kissinger has largely ignored Russia, Chancellor said. Ball argued that a joint Soviet-American presence in the Mideast may be the only way to avoid war.

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David Brinkley's Journal

The outlook for peace in the Middle East has turned from sweet to sour. Egypt's President Sadat says now he is still willing to deal but seems to expect nothing, and so he calls that area a bomb waiting to explode. And in Israel

today there are predictions the Egyptians are turning back to the Russians and to Russian arms and that in Syria, mountains of Russian arms and Russian advisers are in place, waiting.

And, since the United Nations invited Yasir Arafat to speak even though nobody had elected him to speak, the Palestinians are more assertive than ever. Plus, of course, the rivers of money now pouring into the Arab oil states and the Western countries gradually coming into their political and economic debt.

Three months ago, when Israeli Prime Minister Rabin was in Washington, his view was highly negative. He said regardless of what his country gave, he expected nothing in return but words that could not be relied on for more than a few weeks. And so, he was in no mood to give anything. Since then, he has not given anything, and there has been no movement and little or nothing that either side could see as progress. And the optimism, in a distressingly short time, has turned to pessimism. At a time of year when a substantial part of the human race looks toward the Middle East for religious inspiration and hope for peace, it finds very little.

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Christmas Shopping Down

The Census Bureau said the dollar value of Christmas sales this year was the same as that of last year, although that does not take account of a year of inflation, now running at 11 per cent. NBC reported in a 2:55 minute story. Tom Pettit said giving to Christmas charities is down, many stores are having unusual Christmas sales, advertising budgets are way up, and there is great uncertainty on the Christmas market.

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Sugar Prices Down

Retail sugar prices in the northeast have dropped 20 per cent, NBC reported. But retailers in other parts of the country said they would not lower their prices because theirs were lower than Northeast prices to begin with.

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Charles Edwards Resigns

Dr. Charles Edwards, the top U.S. health official, has resigned and will go to work for a medical supply firm in New Jersey, NBC reported. Edwards was an HEW Assistant Secretary for Health and ran the Food and Drug Administration for three years. He has reportedly been unhappy with HEW and administration leadership in recent months, NBC's Chancellor said.

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Coal Construction Negotiations Continue

ABC reported that federal mediators tried again Tuesday to achieve a settlement in the dispute between coal construction workers and coal mine operators. The picket lines of the striking workers were honored by one-half of the nation's miners, Reasoner added.

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Illegal Aliens Taking U.S. Jobs

David Snell gave a 3:15 minute report on Mexican aliens who cross the border illegally into the U.S. -- in Texas and Southern California. Snell said that for each of the 800,000 such aliens who were captured last year perhaps as many as five remain in this country, taking jobs that could be performed by Americans. One immigration official, Snell said, estimated that if measures were enacted to make the hiring of illegal aliens a crime and more funds were allocated for border patrols, that one million jobs would be freed for American citizens.

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CBS Commentary - Eric Sevareid

As people used to say in what was regarded as clever repartee, another country heard from -- two, in fact, Iraq and Iran, which differ by quite a bit more than a continent. They aren't exactly warring; sort of police-actioning against each other. Enough action, of course, and it will become a respectable, up-to-date war without which no modern government feels it has arrived.

It all begins with the Kurds, one of the world's most ancient tribal cultures. There are several million of them spread around Iraq, Iran and Turkey. They have been fighting

somebody throughout your lifetime and that of your most remote ancestor. Turkey put down and absorbed its Kurds, Iran did the same. The Iraqis are now trying to do the same. The Kurds now want outright autonomy and the Iranians, who didn't give it to theirs, want it for the Kurds inside Iraq.

The Shah of Iran, who aims to make his nation a real power, has some territorial quarrels with Iraq, but mostly he just doesn't like the Iraqi regime, which is socialist and friendly with the Soviet Union. So he is helping the Kurds with air cover, artillery and shells.

The Soviets, who once supported Kurdish aspirations, now support Iraq. Moscow has armed Iraq and has a horde of advisors in that country. The United States arms Iran, and has a horde of advisors in that country. The one does it because the other does it, as people climb mountains because they are there. If there is any other justification for our heavy presence in Iran, which has returned the favor by jacking up oil prices, it remains obscure.

For centuries, from Vietnam to Cambodia, to Thailand to Burma, to India to the Mideast to the Sudan, there have existed rebel movements against central governments. The periodic bloodletting managed pretty well on its own until two words were invented: Pro-communist and anti-communist. These two words prove more magical than the two words, "Open Sesame." And, with them, both the central regimes and the rebel leaders unlock the treasuries of the super powers.

They also discovered the word, imperialism, and this is a boom to both sides. The Kurds protest what they call Soviet imperialism, the Iraqis protest what they call American imperialism.

It will be rewarding to see what the United States does not do about this threatening new war in the Mideast. Mark Twain explained once that he had mastered his will power and had gone back to smoking. It is possible that Washington can master its will power and go back to minding its own business. Just possible.

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ABC Commentary - Harry Reasoner

When the leaders of the late 1960's of the United States, China, North and South Vietnam, and Russia eventually go to that great summit meeting in the sky, I suppose they will be able to offer some kind of defense for most of the things they did. But there is one great sin that should be on all their consciences, the bringing of their silly war to Cambodia.

It is probably not true that there never was a good war or a bad peace, even though Benjamin Franklin said it. And you can make a case for the fighting in Vietnam. There is a sharp division there with strong principles. The war there was probably unnecessary and an unqualified disaster for the United States, but compared to what has happened in Cambodia, it was a holy crusade on both sides.

A dispatch from the New York Times today describes the sick misery of that lovely land, and reading it makes you ashamed of even the most remote connection with its cause. Cambodia, even when I was last there, was an island in time. For 20 years, Sihanouk, first as king and then as prince and prime minister, tried to keep it that way, playing his only card, weakness against the powerful contenders across the border in Vietnam.

He was the only thing most Cambodians knew about government. They were about as political as partridges and they had been dragged by their sophisticated friends into disaster. Here was a nation that had fed itself and is now starving, a nation of simple plenty now in great want, a nation of pastoral simplicity which has become an image of corruption, a nation of proud and gentle people who have become violent beggars.

The faults of how the war began there are lost in the lives and lies and terrible rationalizations of the late '60s. It's too late to change those decisions, but surely it is not too late to stop what we are doing now.

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TIMES OF TV NEWS ITEMS
Tuesday, Dec.17, 1974

A. <u>ADMINISTRATION NEWS</u>	<u>ABC</u>	<u>NBC</u>	<u>CBS</u>
1. Housing Starts	:20(lead)	:10(#3)	:10(#4)
2. Simon/Unemployment	1:05(of #3)	2:00(lead)	:15(of lead)
3. Pres. w/Hill leaders	:10(of#3)	--	2:25(lead)
4. Pres./US Steel	:30(of#3)	2:00(#4)	:15(of lead)
5. Rockefeller	:15(#6)	--	:20(#2)
6. Levi w/Senate	:50(#7)	--	1:15(#8)
7. Kissinger/OAS	:25(#10)	--	--
8. State/Mideast nuke plants	:15(#12)	--	:15(#14)
9. Ash Resigns	:20(#20)	:05(of#4)	--
10. Pres./Christmas tree	1:30(#24)	1:25(#17)	:20(of lead)
11. FEA/Oil rollbacks	--	:15(#5)	--
12. Edwards Resigns	--	:25(#8)	--
13. U.S.Army/Haircuts	--	--	2:10
14. Susan Ford	--	--	:35(#21)
B. <u>OTHER MAJOR NEWS</u>			
1. Hill/jobs & unemployment	:15(#2)	:20(#2)	:15(of lead)
2. Sen. Scott/Economy	:15(of#3)	:30(of#4)	:20(of lead)
3. U.S. Steel reaction	:05(#4)	--	--
4. Grocery profits	:20(#5)	--	:25(#19)
5. Watergate Trial	2:05(#8)	1:10(#9)	1:10(#9)
6. Key Biscayne Road	3:00(#9)	--	:20(#11)
7. Hill/Turkish aid	:15(#11)	:15(#11)	--
8. Israel	:20(#13)	:15(#8)	:30(#13)
9. Sadat Interview	1:55(#14)	--	--
10. Illegal Aliens	3:10(#15)	--	--
11. UMW negotiations	:15(#16)	--	--
12. Dollar and gold	:20(#18)	--	--
13. Hawaii quakes	:15(#19)	--	--
14. South Vietnam	:10(#21)	--	--
15. Cambodia	:05(#22,plus 1:40 Reasoner)	--	--
16. Boston Busing	:15(#23)	:15(#13)	--
17. Sugar Prices down	--	:15(#6)	--
18. Christmas shopping	--	2:55(#7)	--
19. Ball on Mideast	--	:15(#9)	--
20. Mideast	--	1:25(Brinkley)	2:35 (Sev- areid)
21. Communism in Italy	--	4:10(#12)	--
22. School Segregation/North	--	1:40(#14)	--
23. Oil Consumption	--	5:00(#15)	--
24. Rabbi Korff	--	--	1:15(#10)