

The New York Times

LATE CITY EDITION

Weather: Cooler with periods of rain likely today through tomorrow. Temp. range: today 67-75; Sunday 72-86. Highest Temp.-Hum. Index yesterday: 78. Details on Page 28.

VOL. CXXIII... No. 42,590

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NEW YORK, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 1974

Higher in air delivery cities.

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A man placing Puerto Rican flag atop a burning Newark police car during disturbance at Branch Brook Park

ARABS SET TALKS ON PEACE TACTICS

Leaders to Meet in Rabat Oct. 26 to Draft Stand at Geneva Conference

By HENRY TANNER

CAIRO, Sept. 1—The Arab League today set Oct. 26 as the date for a conference of Presidents and Kings in Rabat, Morocco, to work out a joint strategy for the next phase of Middle East peace talks.

The 20 delegations, most of them headed by Foreign Ministers, also took up a Palestinian request to enter the question of Palestine as a separate item on the agenda of the forthcoming General Assembly of the United Nations.

Although some Arab governments have misgivings about the wisdom of such a step, the request is believed certain to be endorsed by the Arab League and to be supported later by the so-called non-aligned, or third world, countries.

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Puerto Ricans and Police Clash in a Riot in Newark

By ROBERT D. McFADDEN

A Labor Day weekend festival at a park in Newark erupted into a riot yesterday afternoon as hundreds of Puerto Ricans hurled rocks and bottles and fought a gunshot-punctuated pitched battle with club-wielding policemen.

The Newark Police Department mobilized virtually its entire 1,500-member force last night as hostilities and tensions from the fighting in Branch Brook Park spilled into the streets. But by late evening, after intervention by Mayor Kenneth A. Gibson and a cleansing heavy rain, the crowds and tensions dispersed peacefully.

Eight persons were arrested and at least 16 persons were injured in the late-afternoon fighting in the park and adjoining streets. Three men were admitted to hospitals with gunshot wounds, two of them in serious condition.

At least two police cars, a fire chief's car and a motor cycle owned by State Senator Anthony Imperiale were destroyed by fire. The windshields of several police cars

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ITALIAN REDS BID FOR POWER SHARE

Assert Rome Needs Their Cooperation to Solve the Economic Crisis

By PAUL HOFMANN

ROME, Sept. 1—The Italian Communist party today made a strong bid to collaborate with the Government to save the nation from social and economic disaster.

The offer of Communist cooperation was contained in a front-page editorial in the party newspaper L'Unita. The article was signed by Carlo Galluzzi, a member of the Communist party directorate and a deputy chairman of the Chamber of Deputies, the lower house of Parliament.

The editorial asserted that progress in Soviet-American detente had laid to rest "specters of anti-Communist crusades" and had made it possible for the party to come to the National Government's aid.

Mr. Galluzzi's editorial echoed similar statements that the Communist party leader, Enrico Berlinguer, and his lieutenants have been making with increasing frequency and insistence.

Political observers here were nevertheless struck by the timing and forcefulness of the latest Communist bid for a share of power.

The editorial in L'Unita fol-

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To Our Readers

Effective today, the newsstand price of the weekday New York Times has been increased to 20 cents in the New York metropolitan area and Long Island. Sharply higher operating costs, particularly the cost of newsprint, have made this price increase necessary.

Beyond a 50-mile radius of New York City, the Times newsstand price remains at 20 cents.

SUSPICIOUS FIRES UP IN SLUMS HERE; BUILDINGS LOOTED

400 Blazes Set Since May in South Bronx—Injuries to Firemen on Rise

By JOSEPH B. TREASTER

An epidemic of suspicious fires has swept through some of the city's slum areas this summer, destroying or damaging hundreds of tenements, Fire Department officials say.

In the South Bronx, where the destruction has been greatest, nearly 400 fires that fire marshals say appear to have been deliberately set have erupted since May. This is almost twice as many as during the same period last year.

The officials say there have also been about 240 suspicious fires this summer in Manhattan, nearly all of them on the impoverished Lower East Side, and about 340 in Brooklyn, mainly in the rundown Williamsburg and Brownsville sections, for an increase in each of the two boroughs of about 14 per cent over last summer.

Many of the fires, the officials say, appear to have been set to cover the theft of such things as plumbing fixtures, which bring high prices from second-hand dealers.

Thousands Homeless

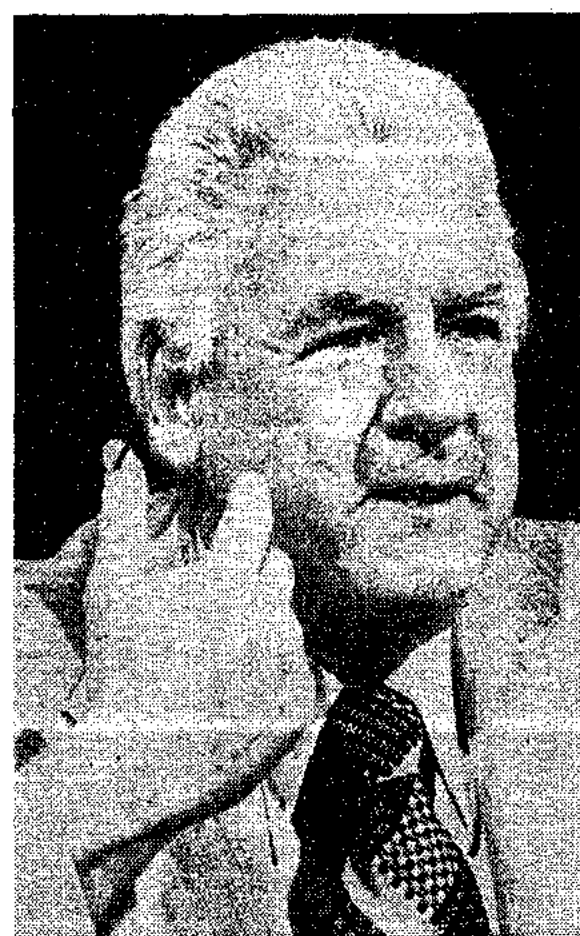
The fires have left thousands homeless, strained the resources of the 14,000-man Fire Department and terrified some neighborhoods.

While the Fire Department does not differentiate in its statistics between victims of suspicious or accidental fires, officials feel the increase in fires apparently set deliberately has not led to a dramatic increase in civilian casualties.

They do, however, feel that some of the rather sharp rise in serious injuries to firemen—1,543 since May, compared with 1,133 for the similar period last year—is attributable to suspicious fires. They also believe these criminal fires have taken a toll on morale, as well.

"These fires have gotten to the point where they're really wearing down the Fire Department and draining off our resources," said Deputy Chief

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Peter J. Brennan, Labor Secretary, discussing wage and price guideposts during a televised news session.

City U. Grading Practices Are Found to Vary Widely

By GENE I. MAEROFF

Grading practices in the City University's 18 undergraduate colleges vary so widely that whether a student graduates with honors, or perhaps even graduates at all, may depend as much on which campus he attends as on his ability.

This aspect of academic life, often discussed by students but rarely acknowledged by administrators, is detailed in a new college-by-college, course-by-course report on grade distribution in the 260,000-student university.

The report, analyzing grades awarded in 1967 and 1972, also indicates that the open-admissions program, which was begun in 1970, did not cause any consistent shift in grading practices throughout the university.

Critics of open admissions under which any city high school graduate is assured of entry to some unit of the city

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A New Vacation Pattern: Stay Home and Pay Less

By ROBERT LINDSEY

Millions of Americans appear to have abandoned traditional vacation patterns this summer to try something new as a result of inflation, doubts about the nation's faltering economy, high gasoline prices and psychological aftershocks of last winter's gasoline shortage.

It has been a summer when many families decided simply to spend their vacation at home, to take short trips not far from home or to rent a cottage and stay put rather than take long highway trips. Others chose to invest in a swimming pool or a boat instead of taking a trip to Europe.

The scope of the shifting vacation patterns was indicated in interviews last week with tourist industry specialists and Americans in 18 cities.

"This year, people traveled closer to home because infla-

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U.S. PLANS GRANTS TO HELP JOBLESS IF RATE GOES UP

800,000 Public Service Jobs Would Be Added Should Unemployment Hit 7%

BRENNAN GIVES DETAILS

Ford, in Statement, Calls on Labor to Produce More and to Fight Inflation

By EDWIN L. DALE JR.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 1—Secretary of Labor Peter J. Brennan said today that his department had prepared a program of gradually rising payments to local governments to create jobs if national unemployment mounted.

Mr. Brennan said that under this proposal a large program of "public service employment"—amounting to about 800,000 jobs—would not be "triggered" until the national unemployment rate reached "around 7 per cent." It is now 5.3 per cent of the labor force.

Arthur F. Burns, chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, has backed a proposal of Senator Jacob K. Javits, Republican of New York, that would lead to a large program of about \$4-billion for public service jobs when the unemployment rate reached 6 per cent. President Ford has promised "compassionate" consideration of the idea, but has made no commitments.

Ford Asks Labor's Aid

In a statement for Labor Day, President Ford urged organized labor to help increase productivity and fight inflation.

"I am confident," Mr. Ford said, "that the men and women of the American labor movement know that the struggle against inflation is a joint venture by all segments of the American people—and that they will do their part."

However, a less-than-conciliatory note was sounded by George Meany, president of the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations, on the issue of possible voluntary "guidelines" for wage and price behavior mentioned by Mr. Brennan.

"If we had guidelines now," Mr. Meany said, "I am sure they would be just as rigidly enforced as legal controls and we would be compelled to strike, and if we struck against the guidelines, we would be considered very unpatriotic and so on and so forth."

Brennan Interviewed

Mr. Brennan was interviewed on the CBS "Face the Nation" television program. His department administers the relatively small existing program of grants to state and local governments to hire people for jobs that the local governments think need to be done. He gave the following schedule of proposed increases:

If unemployment reaches 5.5 per cent, the present program of about \$500-million, creating just under 100,000 jobs, would be slightly more

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Peron's Widow in Difficulty as President

By JONATHAN KANDELL

BUENOS AIRES, Sept. 1—"I am the abstract hand of Peron who continues to guide us all," President Isabel Martinez de Peron told a small, cheering crowd of conservative trade unionists who gathered last week for her first public rally.

Two months have gone by since the death of President Juan Domingo Peron—the vortex of Argentine politics for three decades. With each passing day, the political vacuum he left behind becomes painfully apparent, casting doubt that his frail widow will last out her tenuous mandate in office regardless of her legitimate and mystical claims to his mantle of leadership.

Political violence—which first surfaced while General Peron was still in exile and increased after his triumphant return last year—now claims a victim every 48 hours.

Government programs—pledges to control inflation, further redistribute income and guide the country toward an economic take-off—have instead been widely blamed for an increasing blackmarket, shortages, lack of investment and increasingly vocal labor discontent.

Most Argentines, no matter

what their political persuasion, have always felt that their country—wealthy in resources and talent—was destined for greatness if only leaders could be found to end division and achieve a broad consensus.

But during this period of transition and frustration, the search for scapegoats has already begun, even before Argentines have set their

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CROSSES ATLANTIC IN LESS THAN TWO HOURS: Maj. James V. Sullivan of U.S. Air Force talking to President Ford from Farnborough, England, after piloting an SR-71 reconnaissance jet from New York to London in one hour, 55 minutes and 42 seconds. At left is Maj. Noel F. Widdfield, systems officer on the plane. At right is Senator John G. Tower, Texas Republican, who was on hand to welcome the crew. Article is on Page 13.

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