

FRANCE

Thurs. Mar. 21 '74.

The city of Paris was all but paralyzed today - with thousands of striking workers closing down banks, gas and electricity service, + airline operations, + and subway transportation. A walkout by electrical workers stalled many subway trains - creating a tangle of rush ~~hour~~ hour traffic as thousands of office workers tried to get to their jobs by bus or car. The strikers are demanding higher wages ^{which} they ~~claim~~ ^{say} are needed to keep up with rising prices.

ANNE

A twenty-six year old Englishman - a Londoner today was formally charged with attempted murder in the unsuccessful attempt to kidnap Princess Anne. Ian Ball - a six footer with a mustache and ramrod stance of a guardsman, stood handcuffed between two detectives as a Bow Street magistrate ordered him held without bail. Scotland Yard says Ball was captured in St. James's Park shortly after he shot four persons in the kidnap attempt as a limousine bearing the Princess and her husband neared Buckingham Palace. In his pocket police say was a ransom note addressed to Queen Elizabeth. Although Ball is listed as unemployed The Yard says he has a large bank account and his "associates" are being sought for questioning.

NATURAL GAS

The U S and Canadian governments today were asked to approve a six billion dollar pipeline ^{to} ~~that would~~ pump natural gas from Alaska and northern Canada southward to the U S - Canadian border -- ^{a distance of} some twenty-six ~~one~~ hundred miles. ~~away~~ The proposed forty-two inch pipeline is described by its backers as "the biggest construction project in the history of private enterprise." It would connect Prudhoe Bay ~~off~~ ⁱⁿ Alaska's North Slope with the McKenzie River delta of Canada. Distribution points for gas would be along the U S - Canadian border. The two firms seeking approval ~~for~~ for the project - Alaskan Arctic Gas and Canadian Arctic Gas - say the line could be operational by nineteen seventy-eight;

GASOLINE

A government report says ~~that~~ gasoline prices paid by American motorists increased more than five percent during February ^{— up} _^ to about fifty cents a gallon for regular and fifty-three cents for premium. This report comes a day after federal energy Chief William Simon told the House that the price may go as high as seventy-five cents a gallon before this year is out - mostly because of higher prices for Arabian oil.

In Houston, the Exxon Corporation says ~~gasoline~~ gasoline allocations in thirty-seven states are being increased - this made possible by the purchase of two million barrels of foreign gasoline.

Secretary of State Kissinger told a news conference in Washington that the Administration doesn't believe the Arab oil countries will reimpose ~~the~~ their embargo when they meet on June first. The reason - says Kissinger a unanimous agreement ~~with~~ would be neccessary and that is very unlikely.

COLONEL

In Moscow - a much-decorated Soviet Jewish army officer today renounced his Soviet citizenship and turned in his medals - because he was not allowed to emigrate to Israel. Fifty-six year old Naum-Alshansky was a retired Lieutenant Colonel until he was stripped of his rank and pension two years ago ^{when he ~~ied~~ applied} for permission to leave Russia. While spending four years at the front - during World War Two he was ~~decorated~~ decorated thirteen times. ^{Self -} As he turned in these medals to the Soviet Presidium today, Alshansky issued a statement saying - "I consider it a disgrace for me to wear the orders and medals of a country which has no respect for me, my people, nor their state."

WEATHER

Spring came to the southland today, borne by hurricane winds and tornadoes ^{that} ~~which~~ knocked down buildings -- killed at least five ~~persons~~ - and injured fifty. The tornadoes ripped parts of Louisiana; - and, winds of up to one hundred miles an hour swept across South Carolina and Georgia, killing at least three persons there.