

Fri, Feb. 14-75.

For the second consecutive month there were signed ^S in January that inflation may be gradually easing its grip on the nation's economy. Food prices dropped lower - and the over-all wholesale price index did likewise ^A even though rising oil prices may soon reverse this welcome trend. Inflation may be easing; but ~~not so with the unemployment situation.~~ Two economic forecasters today told Congress the jobless rate could reach nearly nine percent this year - despite the proposed stimulus of multi-million dollar tax reductions.

Also, today, major banks again lowered their prime interest rate - this time to eight-and-three-fourths percent. ^R And, on the New York Exchange, prices rose again - continuing the current rally which yesterday produced the highest volume in the exchange's hundred [†] eighty-three year history. The Dow Jones ^{Going up} ~~rose~~ ^A more than seven points during today's session.

In Detroit, ~~the~~ Ford motors says it is recalling some twenty-seven hundred workers to their jobs next week - although twenty-five thousand will remain on temporary layoff status. Another thirty-five thousand are on long-term lay-offs at Ford.

In Moscow, an American firm - "intertexta International of New York - signed contracts - agreeing to supply the Soviet Union with textile machinery and equipment in return for twenty-three million dollars cash.

WHITE HOUSE

A group of ^{over} ~~about~~ thirty ~~five~~ women ^{set up} ~~marched~~
a picket line around the White House - protesting
First Lady Betty Ford's personal campaign to win
ratification for the womens equal rights amendment.
The first lady concedes that she telephoned legislators
in North Dakota - Illinois, ~~Missouri~~, and Arizona -
urging them to vote for the amendment. And, she says
she'll stick to her guns; ~~and~~ continue to work for the
amendment's approval despite the controversy. North
Dakota ~~and~~ recently ratified the measure - but the
Arizona Senate turned it down. Thirty-Four States
have so far approved - and four more are needed for
full ~~ratification~~ ratification.

SECURITY

The threat of possible terrorism ^{has resulted in a} ~~is tightening x~~
tightening ^{of} security ^{for all who} ~~mean procedures for those who~~
enter ~~to~~ and leave the White House. The Secret
Service says that henceforth newsmen and cameramen
will have to open their bags, brief cases, and other
equipment for inspection. White House News Secretary
Ron Nessen says the recent bombing at the State
Department ^{means} ~~is bringing about~~ tighter security ~~procedures~~
for ^{all} government buildings.

WATERGATE

Federal Judge John Sirica - throwing out
all ~~last~~ legal challenges to the conviction of four
former Nixon aides - now says he'll impose their
sentences next Friday. ^{Judge} Sirica says he found no
valid reason to over-turn the guilty verdicts against
H R Haldeman, John Ehrlichman, John Mitchell and
Robert Mardian as ^{cover-up} conspirators ⁱⁿ ~~to cover-up the~~
Watergate, ~~off~~

POLITICS

Republican Senator Jesse Helms of North

Carolina today urged conservatives to form a third political party - and go to the voters next year if

the Democrats and Republicans fail to produce what

Helms calls "a program of freedom." ^{Now a} Republican

Helms ^{once a} ~~himself a converted~~ Democrat[^] addressed more

than five hundred delegates attending ~~The nation~~

conservative political action conference in Washington -

a meeting call^{ed} specifically to discuss a ~~put~~ possible

national conservative ticket.

INDIANS

A force of some two hundred Indian warriors surrounded a government fort - deep in the jungles of Northwestern Brazil - and held it under siege for nearly twelve hours. Government spokesmen at the capitol city of Brasilia say the Indians are apparently angry over recent expeditions into their territory - seeking mahogany, rubber and other jungle products.

MID EAST

Soviet leader ~~Lionid~~ Brezhnev - apparently fully recovered from his recent bout with a cold - addressed a luncheon honoring British Prime Minister Wilson in Moscow today. Brezhnev saying the Soviet Union would be willing to consider another Kissinger-style ~~an~~ interim agreement in the Middle East - provided it doesn't side track efforts for a permanent over-all solution. ^{TR} He also called for a speedy resumption of the Geneva peace conference as the best way to settle the Arab ~~Israeli~~ Israeli ^{impasse.} ~~talks~~ ^{TR} Secretary Kissinger ^{today} ended his preliminary talks with Egyptian and Israeli leaders - and then flew to Jordan, ^{saying he is} ~~still~~ confident he has a chance to ~~again~~ convince the two sides they should disengage their military forces.

TOWERS

Firemen in New York City ~~are~~ fought a stubborn fire in the ~~Towering~~^{new} World Trade Center - whose twin buildings are the city's tallest ~~with one~~^{—each a} hundred ten stories. ~~Although~~ The blaze was confined to ~~the~~ lower floors, ~~more than thirty persons in the upper floors escaped without injury.~~ Fire commissioner ~~John~~ O'Hagan ~~brushed off~~^{paid no heed to} reporters who made references to the current ~~hit~~ movie - the towering inferno - in which a so-called fire-proof building is destroyed by fire.

Bill Murtagh - on CBS
electronic engineer - sitting across
the room behind all those mysterious
dials is today having a birthday. And
he has 2 grand children born on
St Val's day. He's to you Bill!
and now for CBS News.