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Nation watches as strike deadline nears

Postal Service, union exchange accusations

Local postal officials not fearful of strike

By MARK WILLIS
Battalion City Editor

"As far as I'm concerned, you'll get your mail, Matcek said.

A postal strike would cause a different type of problem for the Texas A&M University Mail Service, Manager John Stanislaw said.

Since the Texas A&M postal system is not directly linked to the national postal service, Stanislaw feels the major problem on campus would be keeping employees busy. However, should the strike become reality — and Stanislaw says he doubts that it will — the University mail system has a contingency plan.

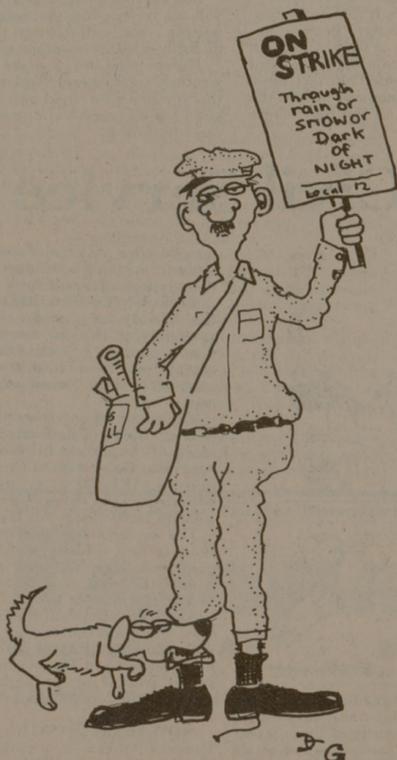
"We will not lay off workers," said Stanislaw. Intercampus mail service would continue as always, but he estimates incoming mail might drop 30 to 40 percent. However, there would still be plenty of work to keep the University staff busy, he said.

"We will be moving our operation into the old laundry building soon and preparation and moving will keep us busy along with our regular duties," he said. The strike would have to last into September without relief before creating problems, he said.

Stanislaw predicts that if the strike comes, the only noticeable effects on campus delivery would be later delivery of package and bulk mail, and problems with mail exchange in areas where the strike reaches full-scale proportions.

"These strikes don't last long as a rule," he said, and a strike probably would not last long enough to affect the the University system to any great degree.

Both men said they had received very little information about the strike from official sources of the postal service. Most of their information, they said, came from newspaper and broadcast reports.



WASHINGTON — With just two days remaining before a possible nation-wide mail strike, the two sides in the Postal Service labor negotiations have been busy exchanging threats and accusations.

In the battle of words Tuesday the postal unions accused the Postal Service of deliberately creating a contract-bargaining crisis, and the postmaster general warned workers they may lose their jobs if they strike.

The Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service said negotiators made progress but "some difficult issues" remain before the strike deadline at midnight Thursday.

The Pentagon says it is prepared to supply Army troops to keep the mail flowing if a strike does develop.

The threat of possible firings came from Postmaster General William Bolger in individual letters to 450,000 union employees. He said he intends to enforce a law forbidding strikes against the government.

A union source said the Postal Service's refusal to retain a no-layoff clause in the new contract had stalled the negotiations although federal mediators insisted talks were still in progress.

"This is a crisis that was deliberately precipitated by management as part of a Madison Avenue strategy, which also includes the utterly unwarranted action of sending scare letters to our members," the source said.

The Army, meanwhile, is prepared to help keep mail service going if there is a strike, if it is asked to do so by the Postal Service, and if President Carter declares a national emergency that would give them the right to take action.

A spokesman said the Pentagon has troops ready to answer any presidential call under an eight-year-old contingency plan called "Graphic Hand."

"The Postal Service would still be responsible for movement of the mail," the spokesman said. "We would provide personnel, the level depending on what they ask for."

However, postal workers union President Emmet Andrews discounts the likelihood of a strike.

"It is unlikely in my personal judgment there would be a strike officially called unless the Postal Service refused to bargain or offered us terms and conditions so ridiculous that we would have no recourse," he told UPI Tuesday.

"At the present time the terms and provisions offered by management are pretty ridiculous in our judgment, but we prefer to regard them at this stage as bargaining chips."

Military will deliver mail if strike held

United Press International

SAN ANTONIO — The Army has prepared a plan, known as Operation "Graphic Hand," to have military units move the nation's mail if a postal strike is called and President Carter declares a national emergency.

A spokesman at Fort Sam Houston confirmed the existence of the "Graphic Hand" plan.

"The Army is the executive agent for the Department of Defense to provide military support to the U.S. Postal Service in case of a work stoppage," he said.

A message received at the San Antonio military facility stated the plan "will only be implemented when and if the postmaster general requests assistance and the president declares a national emergency."

Maj. Fred Ussery, a spokesman for the 5th Army Division, said he did not know which units might be involved in such a move-the-mail operation and doubted more information would be made public until an order was made pressing the Army into action.

He said Operation "Graphic Hand" has been "coordinated" with the Postal Service since 1970.

Legislature to reconsider appraisal bill

Family farms, ranches taxed on productivity?

United Press International

PHILLY — Gov. Dolph Briscoe Wednesday ordered lawmakers to consider the state's system of assessing and had setting property taxes, giving Rep. 77, Peveto, D-Orange, a third opportunity to pass a bill providing for a single, statewide appraisal of property.

Peveto's proposal, which he tried to flourish the last two regular sessions of a pair-legislature, also would establish uniform appraisal standards throughout the state and provide for uniform reappraisal of all taxable property in Texas.

The House Ways and Means Committee began hearing public testimony on Peveto's bill about four hours after Briscoe made his announcement.

Although it was not included in his bill, Peveto said he also favored passage of a proposal giving all homeowners a \$10,000 exemption on property taxes and an additional \$10,000 exemption for persons over 65.

Peveto's bill also includes a provision by which family farms and ranches would be

taxed according to productive value rather than market value.

The legislator said passage of a package of these proposals would be the most beneficial to the taxpayer. The special session now had an opportunity to distinguish itself, he said.

"I think people are more upset about property taxes than they are about utility taxes," he said. "We have the opportunity now to be a great Legislature, or be a lousy one."

"I won't be happy if I go home and tell

the citizens of my district I saved them \$2 on their utility bills."

Both the House and the Senate have passed bills repealing the utility sales tax and raising the inheritance tax exemption. But Peveto said there wasn't enough money in the state treasury to repeal the utility sales tax and also pass his property tax reform bill.

Rep. Joe Wyatt, D-Bloomington, who authored the House bill repealing the utility sales tax and increasing the inheritance tax exemption, also was skeptical of passing Peveto's bill, saying the whole package might be too expensive to enact. Wyatt chairs the Ways and Means Committee.

"I think the Legislature ought to think about this for a long time before it goes in that direction," said Wyatt. "You're committing yourself to a lot of expense for a long time if you go in that direction and I think you would be committing yourself to a tax bill."

Peveto said taxing agricultural land on productive value would save farmers and ranchers about \$250 million. Legislative projection costs on the homestead exemptions have been calculated at between \$650 million and \$850 million.

"My position is to try and help the folks," Peveto said. "And I think by putting this package together, we'll help."

Briscoe appoints dead men

United Press International

AUSTIN — Even if they win legislative confirmation, at least four of Gov. Dolph Briscoe's appointees to state agencies won't be taking office. They're dead.

Bob Bain, the governor's media secretary, Wednesday said it was necessary to submit the names for confirmation even though the four have died.

"All appointments need to be considered by the Senate and, in the case of a deceased person who has served in some official capacity, that period of service needs consideration to eliminate questions which might arise concerning the validity of any action in which that person participated in their official capacity," Bain said in justification.

"The same applies to persons who resign prior to confirmation."

Briscoe was ridiculed during his recent unsuccessful campaign for re-election for previously nominating a dead man for a state post and the issue became the subject of numerous jokes by opposition candidates.

The dead among the list of appointees submitted to the Senate for confirmation were J.J. McCuan, Veda Hodges, Robert Grainger and John T. Bean.



Battalion photo by Pat O'Malley

'Don't worry, I only took a pint'

Sherri Harris, an employee of the Wadley Blood Bank in Dallas, reassures blood donor Chuck McDaniel, a senior landscape architecture major from Andrews. The Aggie Blood Drive continues

today in the MSC 224. Student Government officials have asked all students, faculty and staff members to take time to donate a pint of blood to the Wadley unit.

Begins Aug. 15

Sherman attorney new legal advisor

By FLAVIA KRONE

Battalion Campus Editor

GAINES West, a 31-year-old Sherman, Texas, attorney, has been chosen to head the office of student legal advisor at Texas A&M University.

West will replace acting head attorney Eugene "Sonny" Lyles, who is leaving Texas A&M to start a private practice in College Station. West will move his wife and two children to the Bryan-College Station area and take over the office of student legal advisor about Aug. 15, Dr. John Koldus, vice president for student services said Wednesday.

West graduated from the Baylor University School of Law in 1973. Since then he has served in a variety of positions including being assistant director of elections under former Texas Secretary of State Mark White, hearings officer for the Texas Health Facilities Commission and a practicing attorney with a twelve-man law firm in Sherman.

As assistant director of elections West administered all state, district and local elections from Sept. 1973 to Aug. 1975. In his capacity as hearings officer for the Texas Health Facilities Commission he wrote many of the rules governing the construction and equipment acquisition by

hospitals, nursing homes and home health agencies in the state.

As a private attorney West specialized in administrative law before state agencies.

While the past three student legal advisors at Texas A&M have left the University for private law practice, West may be reversing that trend by leaving his private practice in Sherman to become a student legal advisor.

"Private practice left little time for my family," West said. "I examined my priorities and decided that my family life is most important to me."

"I am genuinely excited to have the chance to work with students," he said. "I am looking forward to the challenge the position offers."

Koldus described West as "personable" and a person who should relate well to students.

Koldus also said he would like to extend the scope of the student legal advisor's office to include a seminar type of outreach program that will bring more students in contact with the office.

"It's not a new program," Koldus said. "We are just trying to move in that direction."

Carter may have to okay Young's future statements

United Press International

WASHINGTON — White House press secretary Jody Powell hinted Wednesday that U.N. Ambassador Andrew Young will have to clear his statements on human rights with the White House in the future.

Powell said "yes" when asked whether Young "will continue speaking out on human rights."

"But how and when is a matter that has to be discussed," he said.

When asked if he meant Young would have to clear such statements with the White House beforehand, Powell said, "I think what we said speaks for itself."

Powell, asked if Young is "fire-proof," replied, "I am not aware that anybody is fire-proof in this administration."

Young was reprimanded by President Carter Saturday by telephone for telling a French newspaper there are "hundreds, even thousands, of political prisoners" in American jails.

Carter told Young he was "very unhappy" with some of the points made in the interview, Powell said. At that time Young had apologized and expressed a realization his remarks were embarrassing to the United States, particularly since they were published during the Soviet dissident trials, Powell reported.

Young told a Canadian broadcasting correspondent in an interview published Wednesday that he would continue to speak out on human rights.

Sen. Henry M. Jackson, D-Wash., said Wednesday the president is "being hurt" by Young's comments to the French newspaper.

"There's no question it's also hurting us around the world and hurting the election," Jackson told reporters as he was about to attend a White House briefing on the Bonn Economic Summit.

But Jackson said Young has been "helpful" in developing African policy.