

the nation

# Postal workers file lawsuit to protest firing of picketers

**United Press International**  
NEWARK, N.J. — Lawyers for dissident postal workers filed a \$1 million lawsuit Monday against the federal government for allegedly violating the rights of workers who picketed a New York-area bulk mail center by firing about 40 of them.

At the same time, dozens of workers crowded into a federal courtroom for a hearing to determine if there will be a permanent ban on a vote to strike the Postal Service in the New York metropolitan area.

U.S. District Judge Frederick B. Lacey issued a temporary restraining order on Friday barring the 23,000-member New York Metro local of the American Postal Workers Union from taking a strike vote. Local union leadership has asked for a strike to protest the contract tentatively agreed to by national union officials.

A spokesman for the dissident postal workers said the workers were also seeking amnesty for dozens of rank-and-file members who were fired for picketing the New

York Bulk and Foreign Mail Center in Jersey City last week. The spokesman said the union leadership has not adequately represented the workers who called a wildcat strike.

"You (union leadership) have as yet done nothing but talk a good fight," the dissident workers said in a statement. "Those of us with our jobs on the line for acting while you were talking have received not one shred of assistance from you."

Local president Moe Biller has not said what his members might do if Lacey's order is made permanent.

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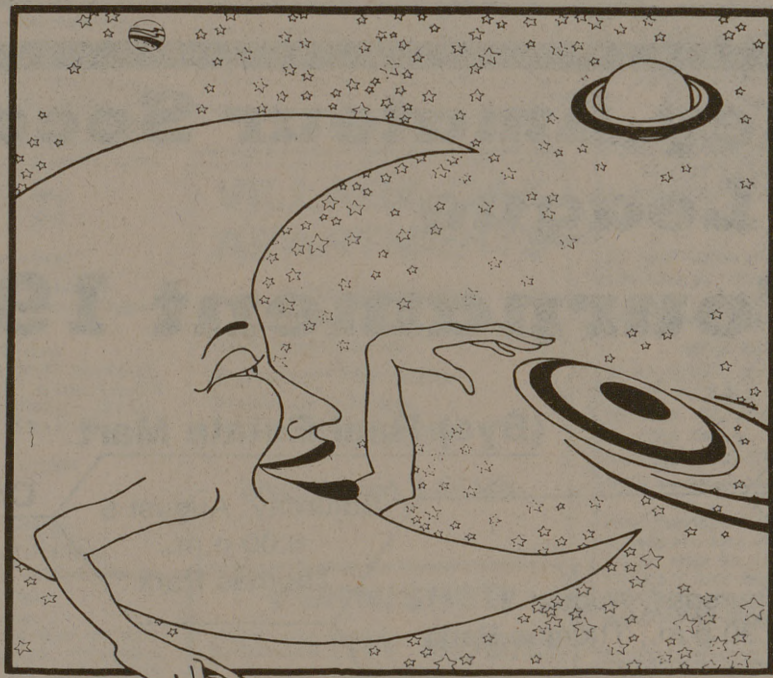
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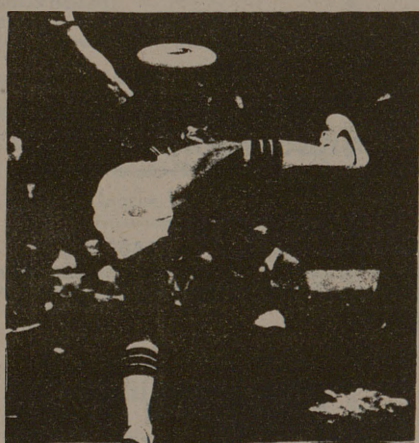
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# Carter's health bill proposes free med benefits for poor

**United Press International**  
WASHINGTON — Not even President Carter knows yet whether middle-income Americans would have to pay a set percentage of their medical bills under his national health insurance plan.

But HEW Secretary Joseph Califano said Sunday one thing is sure: poor people would get free benefits under the proposal Carter wants to put in effect, step-by-step, beginning in 1983.

"The level of cost sharing and the extent of cost sharing, if any, is something that will have to be determined when we lay out the bill," said Califano in an interview on CBS-TV's "Face the Nation" Sunday.

"But low-income families — the poor people — will not be part of any cost-sharing component."

Califano received 10 broad guidelines on health insurance from Carter. He will use

those guidelines — which give no direct orders on how medical care should be parceled out or how it should be financed — to draw up the legislation. He will send the bill back to Carter for final approval before it goes to Congress next year.

When it gets to Capitol Hill, however, it will have company in the form of another health insurance bill to be presented this year by Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass.

Kennedy recently attacked the Carter plan as weak and ineffective, and said the proposal did not lend itself to one, hard-hitting bill.

Califano said, "Sure, there'll be problems in the Congress. But whether one can say that there will be more problems if there is one bill or more problems if there are two bills is, to me, highly questionable."

Senator Kennedy has introduced another number of different bills. None of those bills

have been able to be passed by either house. None of them have been reported out by the relevant committees of either house.

"We intend to introduce a piece of legislation that will have the opportunity of passing."

Califano said the Carter guidelines do not preclude a single bill, although he pointed out Saturday that Carter wants to keep options open to fight inflation.

"The president's program is piecemeal," Califano said. "The president's preference — and it is a strong preference — is for a single bill. We are traveling with Senator Kennedy and those people who want national health insurance. We are walking down the same path. We are going to the same place. And we are going to get there at the same time."

## Boy hospitalized with serious burn

# Youth imitates rock group stunt

**United Press International**

OLYMPIA, Wash. — Marlyn Daniels wants the rock group Kiss to know about his son, Curtis, 11, who suffered third-degree burns trying to imitate its fire-breathing stunt.

Curtis Daniels is in St. Peter Hospital in serious condition with burns inside his nose and throat and on his face, neck, chest and arms. He was taken out of intensive care Saturday, but doctors said Curtis faces a long process of skin grafting.

"I'd like to have that Kiss group read this and hear about this and hear what they have to say," Daniels said.

Daniels said his son had become obsessed with the bizarre rock group during the past three months. He said Curtis has stacks of Kiss cards and has used his mother's lipstick to paint his face to look like the band members.

On Thursday, Curtis went to a friend's house and the pair put on

lipstick and poured ketchup on their chests. They also wrapped a sock around a fire poker, went out to the garage where a can of gasoline was stored and lit the poker.

"Then my boy Curtis decided he would spit fire," Daniels said. "He took a mouthful of gasoline and spit it out — and the fire backfired."

Daniels said his son has always been a mimic.

"He loves the music and the band and the rock and roll. Since he's

been a little boy, this has influenced him," Daniels said. "I remember him pretending he's Tom Jones."

Daniels said he and Curtis, a year-old brother were were about something happening.

"We've talked with Curtis and told him it's a trick," Daniels said. "He just felt he could do it. The parents, they have such an influence on little kids. You just can't believe it, influence a rock 'n' roll band on kids, no matter what they're doing."

As far as he knows, Daniels' son has seen the group on television, never in person.

"We certainly don't censor television," he said. "If it's there, it's there to watch. The parents should go on before TV."

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## Probe set on bribes in industry

**United Press International**  
NEW YORK — Federal authorities have launched an investigation into allegations of bribery and other activities in the coal industry, the New York Times reported Monday.

The investigation includes inquiries by organized crime to take an interest, the Times said in a patch from Atlanta.

The newspaper said federal grand juries were probing coal fields in Alabama, Georgia and Illinois, one is to begin shortly in Virginia. The states of Indiana, Kentucky and California were among inquiries, the article said.

The Times reported that the grand juries of four states — Alabama, Kentucky, Georgia and Virginia — petitioned Attorney General Robert B. Bell to set up a federal task force to investigate the situation.

Georgia Gov. George Busbee in a letter to Bell the illegitimate activities in the nation's coal fields included securities fraud, murder, extortion, wire fraud, tax evasion, fraud, domestic and foreign bribery, kickbacks and political corruption, bankruptcy fraud, organized crime, loan sharking and insurance fraud.

Busbee said a joint investigation involving Georgia, Alabama, Kentucky "clearly demonstrated that organized crime figures have acquired a very substantial interest in the American coal industry are continuing to enlarge their interests," the Times reported.

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