

# Memphis mayor proposes wage settlement for strikers

**United Press International**  
MEMPHIS — Mayor Wyeth Chandler, trying to free the city from the grips of a walkout by police and firemen, proposed a strike settlement Tuesday that ultimately might let taxpayers approve or reject the strikers' wage demands.

Chandler presented to the City Council a plan calling for the strikers to return to work immediately. Both sides would then present their "best offer" to a general mediator, who would choose between the two offers.

If the mediator chose the city plan, no further action would be necessary. But if the union plan was selected, a city-wide referendum would be held in November on increasing the local sales tax to fund the union pay package.

If the sales tax increase is rejected, the city plan would remain in effect.

The council did not immediately vote on the proposal, but council member Ed McBrayer said most council members he had talked with "thought it was good idea."

Union officials were reported in a meeting and would not be reached immediately for comment on Chandler's proposal.

Firefighters and police earlier Tuesday picketed sanitation outlets and other locations to push their demands for higher wages. The picket lines were later withdrawn, but many of the garbage collectors still refused to make their rounds.

A snarl in garbage pickups would further compound an already tense situation in Memphis, which is jammed with thousands of visitors who are marking the first anniversary Wednesday of singer Elvis Presley's death.

Meanwhile, Mayor Chandler issued an ultimatum to firemen, who walked out in sympathy with strik-

ing police officers, either return to work Tuesday or resign by 3 p.m. today.

The mayor also sought contempt citations in Chancery Court to enforce separate injunctions ordering the 1,100 police and 1,140 firemen back to work, and said he would ask the City Council to withdraw recognition of the two unions.

Meanwhile, Tommy Powell, president of the 60,000-member Memphis AFL-CIO Labor Council, said the council may call a city-wide general strike if the City Council withdraws recognition of either the police or fire union.

With the exception of continued arrests of strikers, primarily for violating the dusk-to-dawn curfew imposed by Mayor Chandler, Memphis was ghostly quiet. Most streets were eerily deserted during the 8 p.m. to 6 a.m. curfew hours.

The city's latest labor strife cast a pall over events commemorating the first anniversary of Elvis Presley's death, and businesses relying heavily on nighttime trade were feeling the effects of the curfew.

Tourists and local residents watched somberly as guardsmen, some in armored personnel carriers armed with .50 caliber machine guns guarded police headquarters, precinct stations and firehalls and provided escorts for non-striking firemen answering calls.

This was to have been a boom week for Memphis, with up to 100,000 free-spending Presley fans paying tribute to their idol, who died of a heart attack at his beloved Graceland Mansion here one year ago Wednesday at the age of 42.

But bars, restaurants, cab companies and other businesses reported sharp losses because of the night-time curfew.

## Marijuana limited side effects

# Legal pot smoker dies

**United Press International**  
ALBUQUERQUE — A cancer patient, who won his fight to legally smoke marijuana to offset the side effects of his treatment, died Tuesday at the age of 26.

Lynn Pierson helped persuade the Legislature this year to pass what was believed to be the nation's first law permitting the medical use of marijuana.

A spokeswoman at Veterans Hospital, where Pierson was admitted several days ago, said he died at 7:50 a.m.

Pierson, a graduate business student at the University of New Mexico, claimed smoking marijuana eased the side effects of chemotherapy for lung cancer.

Although he was able to obtain marijuana legally, Pierson lobbied in the Legislature for a bill to allow

certain medical patients to receive the drug legally.

Because of his efforts, the Legislature approved a marijuana research program to "further experimentation and research and, at the same time, provide relief for the pain and suffering of cancer and glaucoma patients."

The three-member board of doctors created by the law unanimously approved Pierson's participation in the program last month, but Pierson said at the time there was a need for further action.

"It (the fight) won't be over until marijuana is widely available throughout America for use as a drug by those who need it," he had said. "Then it will be over."

He was asked why he spent so much effort lobbying when he simply could smoke marijuana illegally.

"For me, yes, it would have been easier (to keep getting it illegally)," he said. "But for a 60-year-old cancer patient, no."

He also said he had become wary of dealing with illegal drug suppliers.

"When you deal with them, you deal with a criminal element," he said. "They carry guns, and when you deal with them, it gets kind of shaky at times."

Pierson also did not put much faith in federal approval of his participation in the program, which was required before he could obtain the legal supplies of marijuana, so he began growing it in his back yard.

"I don't think they'll (federal agencies) come through with it," he once said. "They'll hold it up as long as they can."

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