

Inmate strike still on; fight reports confirmed

United Press International
HOUSTON — An estimated 470 inmates at the maximum security Unit still are refusing to work in protest of prison conditions, but could return to normal in the state's prisons by early next week, says W.J. Estelle Jr., director of the Texas Department of Corrections. Estelle, ending a week-old news blackout of the inmate strike in Texas prisons, told a news conference Wednesday that the remaining striking prisoners are refusing to work and have been locked in their cells. He also confirmed reports of a fight between inmates and guards at a TDC unit at Palestine last week.

"The situation today is that some inmates continue to refuse to work. It is a diminishing number and we are at an approximate 98 percent level of normal operations," Estelle said. "Assuming a continued trend of improvement, the department could well achieve 100 percent normal operations by the first of next week." "It was necessary to use tear gas and riot batons to control the hostile inmates and return them to their cells," he said. Estelle said 28 inmates suffered scalp and head wounds and more than 15 corrections officers were injured by scalding water or flying debris in the three-hour altercation at the Coffield Unit near Palestine Oct. 10.

He said the incident began when inmates armed themselves with broken furniture, mop and broom handles then barricaded themselves in a prison facility. Convicts have staged work stoppages in support of a civil suit filed by eight inmates to have prison conditions improved. Estelle said on Monday he asked lawyers from the attorney general's office to inform U.S. District Judge William Wayne Justice in Tyler of the developing situation in the prison units. Justice is hearing the inmates' class action lawsuit alleging that prison living conditions constitute cruel and unusual punishment. Estelle said he clamped a news blackout on word of TDC activities to protect the rights of the convicts and the 3,000 system employees. "I am sensitive to the public's right to know what is going on in their prisons and I'm aware that the only way this happens is through your work," he told reporters at a news conference in a Goodwill Industries chapel. "At that particular time, my judgment was that the safety of people and protection of state property was an obligation best met by temporary silence." "I don't expect everyone to agree what I did was right, but I hope they understand my motives," he said.

Carter seen set to OK n-bomb

United Press International
WASHINGTON — State Department officials said Wednesday President Carter has decided to move ahead with a new nuclear weapons design that keeps open the possibility of developing a so-called "neutron weapon." The officials said the United States is modernizing some nuclear weapons with a design that can easily be turned into an enhanced radiation weapon. The weapon, chiefly useful as a defense against a massed tank attack, has a relatively small blast but an intense level of radiation which can kill without doing large amounts of damage to buildings or vehicles. The officials said the president's decision, essentially a go-ahead to allocate funds in the new defense budget, "preserves the option to produce a neutron weapon, but does not prejudice a final decision." In a brief statement, the Energy Department, which is responsible for designing and building nuclear weapons, said it "has received direction from President Carter to begin to obligate fiscal year 1979 funds for the production" of the two warheads. "This obligation of funds will implement President Carter's decision of April 7, 1978, to proceed with modernization of these two nuclear weapons," it said. The new components, the officials said, would be incorporated in a new version of the Lance surface-to-surface missile and the 8-inch howitzer shells. The Lance is a medium-range battlefield weapon with a guidance system that gives extremely high accuracy. It is now deployed in western Europe.

Speedy Trial Act upheld for cases pending July 1, '78

United Press International
AUSTIN — The Court of Criminal Appeals, in a decision prosecutors say will result in dismissal of hundreds of pending criminal cases across Texas, ruled Wednesday the Speedy Trial Act applies to all cases pending on July 1, 1978, the date the law went into effect. That ruling will mean all felony cases not brought to trial, or delayed at the request of the defendant, within 120 days of July 1, will be subject to dismissal under terms of the law. There are cases all over the state where offenders - by the mere fact that 120 days has past - will be barred from prosecution, said Bill White, assistant district attorney for Travis County, in arguing the law should apply only to criminal cases filed after July 1. But the Criminal Appeals Court, sitting on a felony drunken driving case against Linzy Wade of Austin, said the act applies to all cases pending July 1, but the 120-day period in such cases must be brought to trial and not begin before that date. Wade had contended the 120 day period in his case, began at the time of his arrest in February, and that a conviction and three-year probation sentence should have been returned.

The appellate court, noting the July 1 effective date of the law, said in its opinion, "Prior to that date, prosecutors, defendants and the courts were neither required to take notice of nor to take any action under the terms of the act. If the state was not required to take notice of its provisions or to take any action under the act prior to July 1, the time which elapsed prior to that date cannot be considered when determining motions to dismiss." "It defies reason to suggest that the state should have anticipated and followed the terms of a statute not in existence at the time such cases commenced." Prosecutors contended in argu-

ments concerning the Wade case that the Speedy Trial Act is an unconstitutional infringement upon the judicial branch of government. The appellate court did not mention that issue in its appeal, leaving the provisions of the law in effect. The law, passed by the 1977 legislature, requires courts to dismiss charges against defendants in cases where the state is not ready to go to trial within 120 days on a felony offense, 90 days on Class A misdemeanors, 60 days on Class B misdemeanors or 30 days on minor violations such as speeding. At least three murder suspects have been released without trials because prosecutors failed to meet the 120-day deadline.

MAMA'S PIZZA DELIVERS
11 A.M.-11 P.M. DAILY
PIZZA, SPAGHETTI, LASAGNA, SALADS, & DRINKS
(\$5.00 MINIMUM)
696-3380
807 TEXAS AVE.

ANNIVERSARY SALE



reg. \$20-\$25
NOW \$16.99

Handsome genuine leather in four classic styles. Fashionably detailed with easy zip tops in beautiful earthtones for that smart look of fall.

Village Casuals MANOR EAST MALL
VILLAGE CASUAL CHARGE * AMERICAN EXPRESS * MASTER CHARGE * VISA

OPEN MON.-FRI. 9:30-9:30 SAT. 9:00-9:30

Kmart
THE SAVING PLACE

THURSDAY
FRIDAY
SATURDAY

Sale

Master Charge or Visa accepted
VISA
Master Charge

CREDIT AVAILABLE ON MAJOR PURCHASES

ADMIRAL® 25" COLOR CONSOLE TV
Our Reg. \$549
Save \$105
\$444
Performance and reliability equal to sets costing far more! Unitized "space-age" chassis with brilliant Delta picture tube. One-touch Color Master control. "Equal Ease" tuning. CATV connector. Elegant Contemporary cabinet built of hardboard and selected solid hardwoods with simulated walnut grain finish.

RCA® 12" SPORTABLE TV
Our Reg. 109.88
87⁰⁰
12" black and white television with New Vista 100 VHF tuner. Solid state.

RCA® 19", XL-100 TV
Our Reg. 419.00
358⁰⁰
Handsome table model color tv with Super Accu Color® black matrix picture tube.

RCA® 19" & TV STAND
Our Reg. 168.88
154⁰⁰
RCA® Black and White TV with solid-state reliability. Get a \$20 TV stand free with this model.

RCA® 13" XL-100 TV
Our Reg. \$349
266⁰⁰
Sharp, bright color combined with small screen size makes an ideal compact portable.

ZENITH® 25" COLOR TV
Our Reg. 565.00
505⁰⁰
Chromacolor II™ modern styled table TV with chromatic one button tuning.

ZENITH® 16" PORTABLE
Our Reg. 158.00
139⁰⁰
Black and White TV with 100% Solid State chassis, power sentry voltage regulation.

2700 TEXAS AVE., SOUTH