

Two unions support walkout

Order doesn't deter teacher strike

OKLAHOMA CITY — A representative of the Association of Classroom Teachers said Monday the organization has not decided if it will seek to represent striking teachers at the bargaining table.

Teachers acting under the banner of the American Federation of Teachers voted two weeks ago to strike for higher wages. They want a 12 percent raise. The school board has offered them 9 percent.

Mary Hepp, ACT president, said the union still supports the current teachers' strike.

Hepp indicated Saturday the union may seek to represent teachers in negotiating a contract with the school board, which has been ordered by three judges not to recognize the AFT.

Hepp said ACT leaders "are asking our attorneys to analyze the situation as far as bargaining is concerned." Instructors have said they will form picket lines again Tuesday, despite Friday's court order.

The judges ordered the school district not to negotiate with the AFT and not to pay teachers for the period they are on strike.

Superintendent Thomas Payzant said he hoped the court order would prompt teachers to go back to work.

AFT Vice President Brenda Martin Sunday accused the school board of spending money to break the strike that could have been used to meet teachers' demands.

She said the board is "wasting money" paying substitutes \$50 a day, hiring security personnel, and paying attorneys.

Drug bust biggest yet in Chicago

CHICAGO — Authorities who seized 30 pounds of heroin from a Texas man — the largest heroin seizure in Illinois history — said the man may have been a courier for an international drug ring.

Although actual value of the heroin will be determined from lab tests, today authorities estimate its street value may be as high as \$30 million.

Francisco Gonzalez Fernandez, 31, an illegal alien from Laredo, surrendered Friday to U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration agents and Chicago police after he was stopped on the Stevenson Expressway.

Thirty pounds of Mexican brown heroin and \$100,000 cash were found by narcotics agents in two false gas tanks in Fernandez's truck.

Authorities said Saturday they believe Fernandez was a courier for an international smuggling ring and others probably will be arrested. His arrest capped a six-month surveillance involving 20 investigators.

Bond was set Saturday at \$300,000, although Assistant U.S. Attorney John Sullivan asked it be raised to \$1 million to keep Fernandez from leaving the country. A magistrate will review Sullivan's request at a preliminary hearing today.

Fernandez was being held Saturday on the temporary \$300,000 bond but federal officials expected Fernandez to furnish the bond soon.

National briefs

PORTSMOUTH, N.H. — Crews manned vacuum trucks and barges today to clean up a 10-mile stretch of the Piscataqua River blackened by an estimated 15,000 gallons of tar-like industrial oil that leaked from a Liberian tanker.

Coast Guard officials estimated the 613-foot "New Concord" dumped about 15,000 gallons of the sticky oil Saturday night into the river that divides New Hampshire and Maine.

CHICAGO — The Labor Day holiday produced a final settlement to a seven-week strike by the International Union of Electrical Workers against Westinghouse.

Union members in Indiana and other states voted "overwhelmingly" Sunday to ratify the new three-year contract, which will provide a raise of about 50 cents an hour in the first year.

The tentative agreement, completed in bargaining at Pittsburgh Thursday, also required the company to continue paying the full contributions to worker pension programs. The issue was the main item of dispute in the strike that started July 15.

ATLANTA — A dramatic decline in the number of measles cases reported so far this year has federal health officials predicting a record low for 1979.

In its weekly morbidity and mortality report, the Atlanta-based Center for Disease Control said if known cases of measles "continue to decline at the current rate, the projected 1979 total will be between 13,000 and 14,000 reported cases, an all-time low for the United States."

The big drop apparently was the result of a national effort announced last year to try to eliminate the disease in America.

WASHINGTON — One of the first orders of business when Congress returns today from its month-long recess is to devise — and enact — a compromise plan allowing President Carter to declare gasoline rationing in an emergency.

Both the House and Senate approved a standby rationing bill but a committee named to reach compromise between the two chambers was unable to agree before recess.

Rep. Phil Gramm, D-Texas, Bryan/College Station, sponsored the strict "trigger" in both House committee earlier and conference committee now, said week that if the conference committee tampers with it, he will try to kill the bill altogether.

Gramm is a freshman congressman with no great clout in the House — but he speaks for a sizeable group of House members who would not have voted for the rationing without making it a last-step measure.

But sources on both the House and Senate committee staffs said Sunday they are hopeful language acceptable both to the Congress and the White House can be worked out.

The main point of difference over the trigger that would allow the president to put rationing into effect, but the staff members said there are many ways a compromise could be reached on the issue without risking the loss of any substantial bloc of congressional support.

During the recess, congressional staff members discussed rationing with White House aides and there is a possibility President Carter would veto any rationing bill that included a strict trigger provision.

The House bill, for example, would not allow rationing unless there was a 20 percent shortage or threat of that shortage — in supplies for 30 days.

Opponents argued that the American economy would be in chaos before rationing could be declared under that restriction. The House — in two separate efforts — refused to pass a rationing bill without that trigger.

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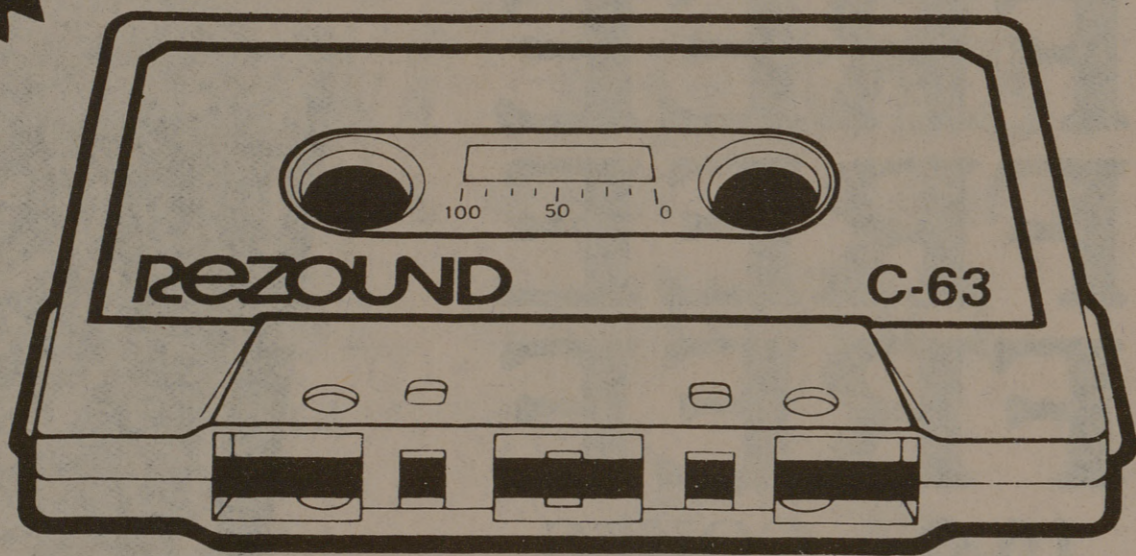
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