

No room at city hall for nativity

United Press International DENVER — A federal judge ordered the mayor to get the manger, Mary, Joseph and Jesus out of City Hall. The mayor said he'd

appeal. Clergymen said they were appalled.
U.S. District Judge Richard P. Matsch made his ruling Monday in a suit filed by the Colorado chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union on behalf of Citizens Concerned for Separation of Church and State. The

Matsch agreed and gave the city 48 hours to remove the Nativity scene, which made the Rev. Charles B. Woodrich wonder how many Christmas cards the American Civil Liberties Union gets.

suit said the use of taxpayer dollars for the religious display violated the

"Christ may have lost in the courtroom, but he hasn't lost in the hearts of men and women," said Woodrich, pastor of the Holy Ghost Church and editor of the Denver Catholic Reg-

Woodrich, whose downtown church is a few blocks from the elaborate decorations at the City Hall, said he was sad about the suit, but was optimistic people would retain Christ in their hearts.

"I think we have to pray for those who spend that much money to take God off the city steps when people are hungry and dying. But what we really have to worry about is keeping Christ on our own front steps, not the city's," he said.

In addition to ordering removal of the creche scene, Matsch ordered the city to pay all costs and fees incurred by the plaintiffs in filing the suit. Mayor William McNichols said the city was to appeal the order on

"It (the Nativity scene) has become a part of the city's tradition,' "I can't conceive of anyone being of the opinion that it constitutes a place of worship. It's been part of the decorations of this city for

many, many years. The Nativity scene includes a manger, Mary and Joseph, several wise men and shepherds, but is a small part of the city's display. Multicolored lights outline the building while numerous Santa Claus, rein-

deer, elves and stars grace the lawn. Clergymen of several denominations expressed a uniform disappointment in the court ruling and questioned whether the decision the appeals court.

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marked another step away from America's religious heritage.

"Christmas has become totally commercial and this says it better than anything I have seen. According to our culture, the holiday is not the birth of Christ, but a way for the merchants to make money," said the Rev. J. Langston Boyd Jr. of the Shorter AME Church.

"It really makes me wonder how much of a Christian country we said Father Kent Boman of the Catholic Archdiocese of Denver. "This country was founded so we could practice religious freedom."

By contrast, ACLU attorney Jonathon Chase said he was "extremely pleased" with the decision and expected it would be upheld by

Windy city struck by many strikes

United Press International CHICAGO — All of a sudden, Chicago has become the city that sn't working anymore.

The buses, the subways, and the el trains are not running because transit workers went on strike Monday. At least a million people are left in

The schools may close any day now. As of now, the school board cannot say how it will meet a \$41.5 million payroll Friday.

Stor The city firemen say they are ready to strike if they do not get a ontract. The cab drivers say they nay go out. Teamster tanker-truck drivers

have been on strike against major gasoline distributors for a week now, ausing shortages and lines at the

in the nation among municipalities,

United Press International WASHINGTON — Exxon, the nation's biggest oil company, Tues-

day boosted its wholesale gasoline price by 6 cents a gallon to reflect the latest round of OPEC crude oil price

"The reason is the recent crude oil

ce increase by several OPEC sup-

ers retroactive to Nov. 1," said an

as immediately raising its whole-

nd kerosene by 3 cents a gallon.

y 6 cents a gallon on Saturday.

price of home heating oil, diesel

Chevron, another one of Saudi rabia's four American partners in he Arabian American Oil Co.,

osted its wholesale gasoline prices

oxon spokesman in Houston. Exxon, which buys much of its rude from Saudi Arabia, also said it

The city's credit rating, once peg-ged triple A and one of the proudest

is slipping.

New York, Cleveland and Detroit might flirt with bankruptcy. Other big cities might be stymied by decay and stagnation. Chicago, under the rule of a seemingly benign political machine, appeared to proceed unperturbed, building and bragging.

Some Chicagoans are directing blame at their city's new mayor, Jane M. Byrne.

The city's mounting troubles have fallen upon her shoulders since she toppled Daley's old machine in last February's pivotal Democratic She promised confidently to settle

the Chicago Transit Authority dis-pute, much as Daley, her political tutor, used to do. The difference is that Daley almost always delivered. Byrne did not.

Such considerations mean little to Chicago working people trying to get

The other two Aramco partners, Mobil and Texaco, hiked their prices by 3 cents a gallon last week.

Amoco also announced a 2- to 3cent a gallon average price increase for gasoline and a 3-cent hike in heat-

ing oil prices last Saturday. And Gulf

raised prices by 1.5 cents for its un-

leaded gasoline and 2.5 cents for

through to customers, along with a

dealer margin permitted by the Energy Department, beginning last

The sad thing," said Frank Brad-

Retail gasoline dealers can pass

other brands on Dec. 11.

to their jobs or to mothers wondering where or whether the kids will go to school again. They just want to get Chicago



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the increased wholesale costs seven-tenths of a cent raise in their ley, Chevron vice president, "is that it looks like there's more to come."

ALTERATIONS

Latest OPEC price increase

reflected in gas price hikes

THE GRAND TRADITION OF TEXAS WHERE MOTHER JGHT DAUGHTER THE FINE

"DON'T GIVE UP — WE'LL MAKE IT FIT!"

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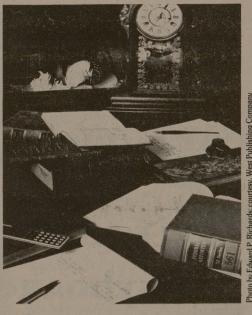
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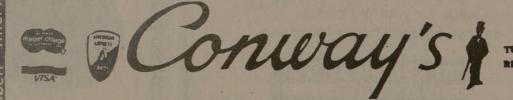




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