

Cancer victims' job problems studied

United Press International
WASHINGTON — A plumbing foreman attempted suicide when he was demoted following surgery for throat cancer because his subordinates mimicked him and his boss thought he could not regain their respect.

Another cancer patient was fired because his employer thought he would be absent too much. When the man sought another job, the interviewer asked that he fill out the application with a pencil instead of the usual pen so the pencil could be discarded.

A woman who had been treated for breast cancer applied for a job as a library aide, but was turned down on the recommendation of the examining physician because she had a mastectomy three years earlier. She got

the job only after filing a complaint.

Frances Lomas Feldman, professor of social work at the University of Southern California, cited these as examples of problems some cancer patients face in the workplace.

Feldman told a recent American Cancer Society seminar that a study of white collar workers revealed 54 percent of 127 patients interviewed had some kind of work-related problems they attributed to cancer.

One-fourth of the sample reported such problems as a loss of job, refusal of promotion or another job and changes in working conditions, hours, salaries or insurance coverage.

Of 120 blue collar and service workers interviewed, 84 percent reported similar work problems associ-

ated with their cancer history.

But Feldman said not all cancer victims have such problems.

"Both studies disclosed a substantial number of instances in which the employee was accorded the same treatment as others in the work establishment, or they reported special measures taken by employers and co-workers to help the patient return to work and health."

"Until these studies were initiated," she said, "there had been no systematic examination of the factors and feelings that affect the entry or re-entry into the world of work following a severe illness that not only is stressful in itself, but conjures up myriad anxieties that may contain elements of apprehension about physical or economic dependence."

State may appeal decision

United Press International
HOUSTON — State officials were considering appealing a jury award of \$125,000 to a former prison teacher fired for not wearing a tie to work, Assistant Attorney General Nancy Simonson said Tuesday.

Gerald E. Jordan, 38, who now

teaches in the Houston Independent School District, sued the Texas Department of Corrections after his dismissal in 1975 for dress code violation. He argued the dismissal violated his right to free expression and due process of law.

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Experts ponder why interest rates waver

United Press International
NEW YORK — The interest-rate spiral is beginning to waver, but does it mean a break in inflation psychology or a crack in the Federal Reserve's tight rein on money?

"The Treasury bill market may be catching a whiff of recession and possible credit problems," said David M. Jones, economist for Aubrey G. Lanston & Co.

Although the prime rate continues higher — it hit 20 percent last week — other short-term rates have bounced around.

The average interest in the Treasury's auction of short-term bills declined sharply last week. Euro-dollar rates were down a bit on some days. The federal funds rates, although a record for the latest reporting week, have been pushed up by the Fed

when they tended to drop near the presumed 18-20 percent target level.

There are reasons for those lower rates on short-term government issues to be sure.

The recent crisis in the silver markets scared a lot of people and not only in commodities; the potential losses of several major brokerages in the huge margin calls on silver made investors jumpy. The silver turmoil, nervousness over the economy, the stock market and inflation, Jones said, has precipitated "a flight to safe money — U.S. governments."

"Along with the safety factor is the feeling that these rates are attractive in light of the view that the economy is heading into steeper recession," he added.

Also, the Fed's tight-money policy and credit restraints have taken a toll.

"The liquidity of financial intermediaries — most of which are highly leveraged — has generally dried up," said William N. Griggs, senior vice president of J. Henry Schroder Bank & Trust Co.

The commercial banks are the only institutions in the banking system that still have liquidity and much of that has been absorbed by the administration's March 14 changes in managed liability rules

and growth targets, Griggs said.

Jones noted there has been "almost a complete cutoff of credit to consumers."

"Typically a bank would suffer the loss and keep the customer. It was afraid to cut off credit for fear its competitor wouldn't," Jones said. "But it appears now that the anti-inflation program has caused them to decide en masse to do so."

Against this backdrop, it's not difficult to understand why investors, despite a huge increase in the supply of short-term Treasury issues, are bidding these rates down, Griggs said.

The intermediate and long-term government market also showed signs of rallying, but for different reasons. "The perception is beginning to grow that a recession now seems likely," Griggs said.

For the Fed's part, it has as yet given no indication of a softening in its fight against inflation.

"The Fed's policy has been successful, perhaps beyond the wildest dreams of the monetary authorities," Jones said.

"The Fed is well aware of the risks," Griggs said. "But by all indications they feel obliged to stay with it."

Inflation aid suggested

United Press International
HOUSTON — Increased productivity of small businesses in this country would go a long way toward slowing inflation, the chairman of the American Stock Exchange said Tuesday.

Arthur Levitt Jr. said small businesses account for 43 percent of the gross national product and are responsible for 66 percent of new jobs being generated.

On the other hand, he said, inflation "creates special kinds of problems for small businesses. Their chronic shortage of capital becomes particularly acute during inflationary times."

Levitt, chairman of the White House Commission on Small Business, said members recently agreed that the federal government was a major impediment to small business growth.

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