

nation

Pay strikes prevent schools from opening

United Press International
Teachers in Rochester, N.Y., Wednesday walked picket lines in defiance of a restraining order and Newark, N.J., teachers walked out a day before 70,000 students were due back from summer vacation.

Well over 25,000 teachers nationwide are participating in strikes that are becoming as much a rite of September as the reopening of schools. As usual, money led the litanies of contract issues.

Other teachers' strikes simmered around the country. In Philadelphia, where officials were reportedly roughed up, teachers were under a court order to limit picketing.

Two Rochester schools were forced to close on the first day of classes Wednesday and others were expected to close.

In Newark, New Jersey's largest city, the strike involved 4,500 teachers, aides, and clerks in 81 schools. Their contract expired on June 30, and contract talks stalled Tuesday.

Rochester School District officials had hoped a combination of substitutes and administrators could keep classes as normal as possible for the district's 34,600 students, but a shortage of substitute teachers was expected to force the closing of additional schools.

The district's approximately 2,300 striking teachers set up picket lines at 6 a.m., in the first such strike in the city's history to back demands for a better wage increase than the 6 percent offered.

In Philadelphia, where schools were to reopen Friday, the two sides complied with Mayor William J. Green's order to resume around-the-clock negotiations late Tuesday night under the supervision of a state mediator.

The 20,000 teachers were supposed to report for their first day of work Wednesday but instead planned to resume picketing at schools, the district administration building, and other facilities. A court order limited the number of pickets to six at any location.

Poland's coal workers sign back-to-work agreement

United Press International
WARSAW, Poland — Poland's communist leaders ended three weeks of labor unrest in the nation at dawn Wednesday, making major concessions to 100,000 striking Silesian coal workers who signed a back-to-work agreement that guarantees their three main demands.

Bargaining dragged on so long, however, that the strikers said they could not return to their jobs before Thursday.

The Silesian miners held out for their demands two days after strikers at the Baltic shipyards returned to work after winning an unprecedented package of social and industrial reforms, including the right to form unions free from Communist Party control.

The government made major concessions in order to get the striking coal miners back to work quickly to save Polish industry from being crippled by a lack of energy supplies.

The workers succeeded in winning their three main demands: a five-day work week, improved safety measures in the mines, where eight men died in an accident Monday, and a reduction in the retirement age from 55 to 50.

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July figures indicate economy looking up

United Press International
WASHINGTON — After slumping for five months, factory orders rose in July by more than they have in a decade, providing fresh evidence the United States' latest bout with recession may be drawing to a close.

New orders for manufactured goods jumped 5.7 percent or \$7.8 billion last month to a seasonally adjusted \$146.4 billion, the Commerce Department said Tuesday.

Although orders improved for most manufacturers last month, a considerable jump in demand for steel, aircraft and automobiles accounted for most of the overall gain — the first increase since January and the largest since December 1970.

"One does have the feeling there has been some momentum building for a recovery, however modest," said William Cox, a Commerce Department deputy chief economist.

Last week, the government's index of future economic trends registered its largest increase. Other recent figures have shown auto sales are improving, housing construction is on the rise, and consumer spending has begun to pick up.

In its report, the department said new orders for durable goods — products designed to last more than three years — jumped 10.3 percent or \$6.8 billion in July to \$73.3 billion.

Transportation equipment orders were up \$3.5 billion or 28 percent to \$16.2 billion with new auto orders accounting for about half of the increase.

Steel manufacturers had their second good month in a row in July with new orders increasing 22.5 percent, following June's 16.1 percent gain.

The only major durable goods industry that did not show improvement during July was the electrical machinery sector, the department said.

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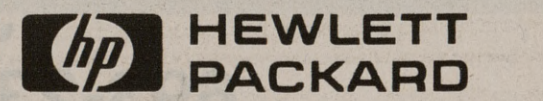
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