

# National

## Thousands of misfiled claims overwhelm IRS

# Michigan auto workers are revolting against taxes

United Press International  
FLINT, Mich. — Thousands of angry auto workers are claiming up to 99 dependents each or refusing to file income tax withholding forms at all in a growing tax revolt the Internal Revenue Service is finding nearly impossible to stop.

The grass roots movement has spread in and around auto plants from Flint to Detroit. Most protesters are employed by General Motors Corp. and many are white-collar workers.

Leonard Nawrocki, IRS manager of criminal investigations in Flint, Sunday estimated at least 3,500 workers are falsifying their tax forms or not filing at all. The number of protesters, he said, is growing.

"This is the biggest, or at least one of the biggest, tax protest movements in the country," said Nawrocki.

Some workers, he said, file a federal withholding form used by low-income workers who don't earn enough to pay income taxes. Others claim enough dependents so that no tax is withheld — as many as 99 dependents in some cases.

Then, Nawrocki explained, many simply do not file a return at the end of the year. Others file an incomplete return or declare themselves "ministers of their homes' churches, and say they're exempt," he said.

The IRS is threatening to strike back with its entire legal arsenal, including wage garnish-

ments and criminal prosecutions. But Nawrocki conceded the large number of protesters will make prosecutions difficult — and the agency is considering asking for help from Washington.

"That's the secret — the numbers," Nawrocki said. "I don't think we can prosecute every one of them."

Several organizations are promoting the anti-tax phenomenon, including a group called We the People — American Citizens Tribunal, which operates from a storefront building in Pontiac.

In 1980, We the People had 700 dues-paying members, officials said.

Dean Hazel, an hourly worker at a GM plant

in Pontiac, said he founded We the People but denied being an "income tax evader or cheat." He said the group is only defending the Constitution.

"If Nawrocki wants to haul our guys into court he'll get his ears pinned back," said Hazel, who claims the IRS has been losing on "false and fraudulent W-4 (forms) for years."

Nawrocki, however, said the groups were spreading false information and said some of the material includes anti-Semitic and Nazi propaganda.

The IRS is stepping up audits and warning the protesters they could go to jail. Still, only five

cases have been referred for possible prosecution and only in one case is the IRS actually recommending criminal sanctions.

The protesters argue that reporting income and paying income taxes violate citizens' rights in several ways, including the right against self-incrimination.

One protester, Jack Ver Wiebe, a lift truck operator at a Flint GM plant, claims he has avoided \$3,000 in federal income taxes.

"The people are getting ready to revolt," he said. "That's why people came to this country, to get away from taxes. They're fed up with bureaucracy and red tape."

# Reagan administration says Cuban arms must stop

United Press International  
WASHINGTON — The administration today released an inch-thick "white paper" to back up warnings that it may take direct action — possibly a blockade against Cuba — if communist arms shipments to Salvadoran rebels are not stopped.

The white paper, "Communist Interference in El Salvador," is a

lengthy compilation of documents, including a chronological account of the communist intervention in El Salvador that was leaked earlier to news media.

It includes documents, photographs and maps detailing links between El Salvador's leftist guerrillas and communist governments in Europe, Asia and Africa, as well as Cuba and Nicaragua.

It was released against the background of warnings by top aides to President Reagan that the United States may take direct action against Cuba to stop the flow of arms into El Salvador.

White House counselor Edwin Meese said Sunday the United States is prepared to take some form of direct action against Cuba, possibly a blockade, unless arms shipments to rebels in El Salvador are stopped.

Meese said the United States will "take whatever measures" are necessary and will not "rule out anything" to stop the flow of arms and assistance to insurgents.

On Saturday, Secretary of State Alexander Haig was quoted as telling foreign diplomats that "in some way we have to deal with the immediate source of the problem — and that is Cuba."

The white paper released today

did not include a preface to the chronology, which was included in the same document when a summary was released to the news media last week.

It said in part that accumulated evidence "reveals a highly disturbing pattern of parallel and coordinated action by a number of communist and some radical countries seeking to impose a military solution in a small, Third World nation."

Appearing on ABC's "Issues and Answers," Meese was asked about statements by government sources that the United States intended to go directly to the source

of the rebels' supplies.

"I think that's entirely possible if the arms shipments do not cease," Meese said. "And I think it is to Cuba's own self-interest to halt them right now, and this transmittal of subversion into Central America."

Noting that "this administration speaks with one voice," and that Secretary of State Alexander Haig speaks for the president unless he specifies otherwise, Meese said:

"What he has said is that we will take whatever measures are necessary. We now are talking to governments through which the

shipments are coming, and they are indicating they will take steps to stop the illegal shipment of arms."

Asked if he was ruling out a blockade of Cuba, Meese replied, "I think one thing you don't do is rule out anything."

"You don't want your adversary to know what you won't do. President Reagan wants his adversaries to go to bed every night wondering what he will do."

"It is time that those seeking to spread subversion realize that we now have an administration that will take whatever steps are necessary to secure peace anywhere in the world," he said. Steps that

might be taken "are not limited to military force," he said.

Reminded that Jimmy Carter tried such steps unsuccessfully while president, Meese said the difference is that Reagan is "determined, deliberate and thoughtful, and when he says something he will back it up."

Reagan said, "we are all very concerned" about the El Salvador situation in speaking briefly to reporters as he was leaving California to return to Washington.

Meese said Reagan was being kept informed "up to the minute" on developments in the Central American nation.

# Reagan's worth may be \$4 million

United Press International  
WASHINGTON — President Reagan is estimated to have assets with a net worth of \$4 million — more than twice his own disclosure in 1976, it was reported today.

The New York Times said it

based the estimate on a report Reagan filed last week with the Office of Government Ethics covering 1980 until the day he took office, plus other information on his finances.

In 1976, when running for the Republican presidential nomina-

tion, Reagan disclosed his net worth at \$1,455,571.

The newspaper said an increase in the value of his California home accounted for a large portion of his greater financial worth as calculated by the Times. In 1976, Reagan said the Pacific Palisades residence was worth \$200,000. He recently placed his home on the market for \$1.9 million.

The newspaper said his most recent disclosure indicated most of his 1980 income came from interest on cash savings and a mortgage he holds, speech fees and a California pension as a former governor.

The Times said its review of financial records revealed his assets were:

- The Pacific Palisades home worth \$1.9 million.
- His 688-acre ranch northwest of Santa Barbara, Calif. He bought it in 1974 for \$526,000, but the Santa Barbara assessor estimates the property is now worth \$1 million.
- Cash of \$740,000 accumulated from the sale of stocks. The money was placed in a blind trust last month.
- Mortgages worth \$600,000 which Reagan holds on a 771-acre ranch in Riverside, Calif., that he sold in 1976.

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### Boys set fire that causes \$80,000 damage to school

United Press International  
HOUSTON — Three children, ages 4, 6 and 8, told investigators they were playing with matches that set a school on fire and destroyed one school building, police said.

The boys, who live near the school, were not injured in Sunday's fire, but caused \$80,000 worth of damage to the Westbury Senior High School, said investigator J.N. Witt.

The boys when questioned, the scene broke down and gas sobbing accounts, saying they started the fire with some papers. They entered the building through an unlocked door.

The children have been released to their parents.

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