

Chrysler, UAW meet for contract talks

United Press International
DETROIT — Chrysler Corp. Chairman Lee Iacocca met with United Auto Workers bargainers Wednesday in the second day of contract talks to explain what the company planned to offer in a new labor agreement.

The session, expected to last all morning, was closed to reporters. But UAW President Douglas Fraser predicted "we're going to get a show — you know we will if Iacocca's giving it."

Fraser made the comment as he walked in the bright sunshine from the union's bargaining office across the Chrysler parking lot to the building where the talks were being held.

No formal briefing was set. The union is scheduled to re-

spond to the Chrysler presentation today.

The UAW has made it clear that it intends to gain back \$662 million in concessions made to the company.

Union bargainers said the new contract should include a restoration of cost-of-living allowance payments plus job security for Chrysler's remaining 60,600 blue-collar workers.

As talks opened Tuesday, Fraser referred immediately to Chrysler's announcement the day before of a \$106.9 million second-quarter profit. It was Chrysler's second straight quarter of black ink and its highest profit in nearly six years.

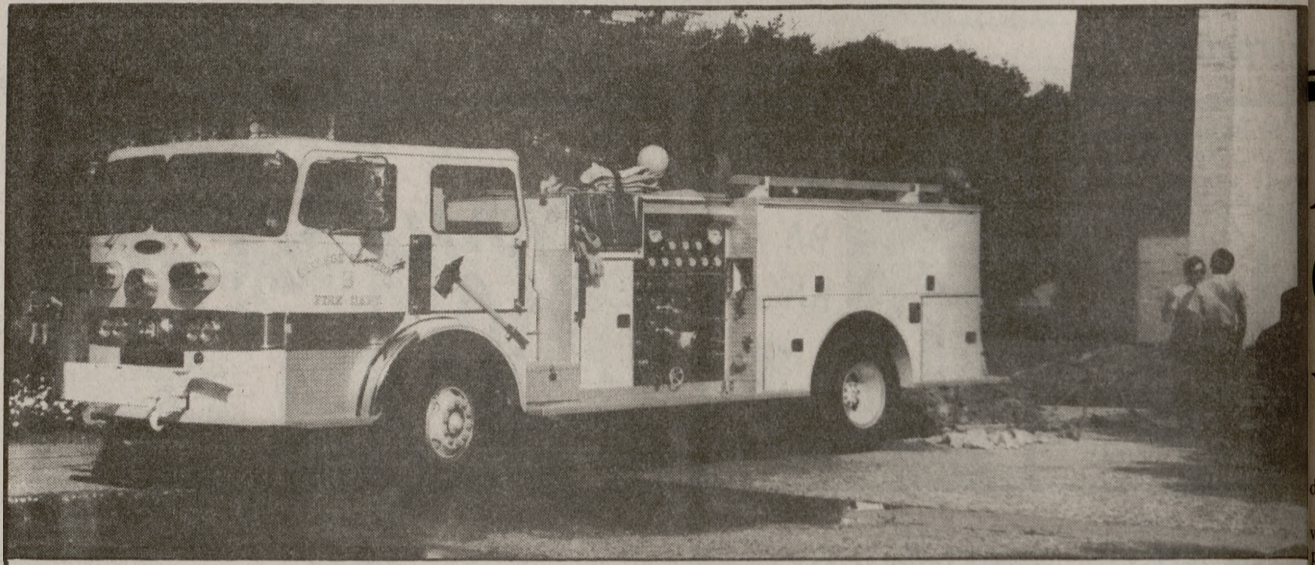
"Your timing is just great," Fraser quipped.

The UAW in early 1981 agreed to wage and benefit freezes estimated to have saved the company \$662 million. The union maintains the concessions have placed Chrysler workers' labor rates at \$2.58 an hour less than the \$20 earned by workers at Ford Motor Co. and General Motors Corp.

The loss of COLA alone costs workers \$1,100 every three months, Fraser said.

"It's time to give (Chrysler workers) the credit that's due and now they deserve equity," said Fraser following the opening two-hour session of bargaining.

He acknowledged, however, the union was unlikely to get back all its concessions "in one fell swoop."



No fire — just training

The fire trucks on campus, like this one outside Harrington Tower, are not responding to an emergency — they're training for one. The College Station Fire Department is testing the fire

systems in the campus' buildings this week; in addition, the tests are giving some new members of the department a chance to familiarize themselves with on-campus procedures.

photo by Susan Flores

Students taking less math, science

Future may see fewer scientists

United Press International
NEW YORK — Young scientists may be scarce on the American scene by 2000, and the same is true for young mathematicians.

Numerous studies, experts, and prognostications point in that direction. Not enough scientists and mathematicians, they

say, are in the pipeline right now in the high schools or colleges.

The forecasters see this as an ominous trend for the United States, coming at a time when the nation and the world are rocketing into a technological society. The experts say that even to survive in such a society, people who don't make their living at science or mathematics will need enough knowledge in those fields to make intelligent decisions about everyday life.

The National Society for Teachers of Mathematics, the National Academy of Sciences and National Science Teachers Association are among those signaling S.O.S. over the crisis in science and math.

The latest report is in "Chemical & Engineering News," an American Chemical Society publication.

"A pair of long-brewing problems in U.S. education recently

have achieved bona fide crisis status," the report said. "One is that the public, by most objective measures, is becoming increasingly ignorant of things mathematical, scientific and technological."

"The other, related to the first, is a current and worsening shortage of persons competent and willing to teach those subjects to students in elementary and secondary schools."

"The two have been lumped into one official crisis — the crisis in pre-college education in science and mathematics."

At a National Academy of Sciences conference on the subject, Paul DeHart, emeritus professor of education, Stanford University, California, said:

"Only 34 percent of U.S. high school graduates have finished three years of mathematics. Of those, only 8 percent have taken calculus, which is taught in only 31 percent of the high schools.

•Fewer than 20 percent of the graduates have had three years of science. Most seniors have had a course in biology and 37 percent have had chemistry. But only 19 percent have had physics.

•If you narrow the study to only those students in pre-college courses, who make up about 40 percent of the high school population, the figures are only somewhat higher. Fifty-five percent had had three or more years of math; 41 percent have had three or more years of science.

•Among the 60 percent of high school students who pursue general or vocational courses, only 20 percent have had three years of math and just about 10 percent have had three years of science.

There are other signs pointing to a lessening of the quality of science and math education in high schools. Mean scores in

math on the Scholastic Achievement Test (SAT) declined from 502 in 1963 to 466 in 1980. The top score on the test is 800, the lowest possible, 200.

Another sign: the proportion of students scoring more than 700 points on the SAT math test skidded 15 percent between 1967 and 1975.

Still another: national assessments of science achievement made in 1969, 1972, and 1975 and measuring 9-, 13-, and 17-year-olds — showed continuing drops in achievement with the biggest declines among 17-year-olds.

"Although there's room for debate about how much science math education is enough or at least how good it should be, there's hardly any argument that the science and math structures of U.S. elementary and secondary education are crumbling," Ward Worthy, Chemical & Engineering News Chicago bureau, says.

Farmer seeks help from sly psychic

United Press International
DES MOINES, Iowa — A farmer seeking to win back the affections of his estranged girlfriend paid \$7,500 to a psychic who told him to wash with a tomato and push needles into matchsticks to rid himself of evil spirits, police say.

Police say the man, 27, also was told to sleep with the tomato and a shoe under his pillow as part of the ritual on how to rekindle the old flame.

"This definitely is a weird case," detective Ron Warner said Tuesday. "We only got word of it after the lovestruck farmer realized he was getting taken and reported the case to state officials."

The farmer told police he was in shock when he lost the affections of a woman he had been seeing. He called the psychic in September after he saw her telephone number listed in a newspaper advertisement.

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