

Union membership rises among religious

United Press International
On Sept. 16, the votes will be counted in an union organizing election.

There is nothing novel about that except for the proposed union's membership — the 100 priests, ministers and rabbis who serve as chaplains for New York's city's police, fire, correctional and other institutions.

The notion of ordained clerics forming a union is one of the most dramatic examples of a

growing trend — the unionization of church employees:

●At the National Council of Churches, support staff such as secretaries and clerks have had for a number of years a "staff association" that negotiates contracts.

●Organizing efforts at the United Methodist Church's General Board of Global Ministries have been going on for almost year.

●Workers in Roman Catholic

schools and hospitals increasingly are taking on their bishops and administrators in an effort to organize.

It is an often painful development that not only pits workers against their bosses but sometimes brings churches into direct conflict with their teachings.

Nearly all Protestant churches recognize the right of workers in secular fields to form unions.

Roman Catholic social

teaching, for the past century, also has defended the rights of workers to organize — most dramatically in Pope John Paul II's encyclical on labor and in the church's defense of the Polish union, Solidarity.

Methodist Social Principles said: "We support the right of public and private employees and employers to organize for collective bargaining into unions and other groups of their own choosing."

But bringing that drive into ecclesiastical institutions sometimes has been another matter.

In the September issue of U.S. Catholic, Mary O'Connell said the "current unrest in labor relations stems in part from the changing nature of the labor force in Catholic institutions."

She said much of the work that used to be done in Catholic institutions by priests, nuns and brothers under vows now is being done by lay people "under

pressure to keep the mortgage paid and food on the table."

Although Protestant churches generally have not had the kind of full-time religious workers as Catholicism, similar situations — and problems — exist in their institutions.

"Workers who are not under vows of chastity argue about things like maternity or vacation

time to spend with their families," O'Connell said. "Workers who are not under vows of poverty have to shop at the same supermarkets as the people who design computer software or sell video games. And workers who are not under vows of obedience can question whether their skills are being put to their best use or their grievances treated fully."

Doctors poor investors, adviser says

United Press International
LINCOLNWOOD, Ill. — The worst investors are stockbrokers, doctors, lawyers, dentists, accountants and bankers while women and retirees are the best, an investment adviser says.

Earl Zazove, 62, established a

medical clinic in 1949 and treated his last patient in 1971. Since then, he has advised investors from a home office.

"While physicians as a group have a poor investment record, lawyers, accountants and bankers have worse records," he said.

"And worst of all, as a group,

are stockbrokers."

Doctors, Zazove said, need an investment program that won't take much of their time and is slightly aggressive or risky. They want to have a little fun and excitement with their investment, he said. They usually can afford to take chances.

Size is a problem for such large institutions as banks and insurance companies.

"Banks have an extremely poor investment result," he said. Investing by committee, they "get sort of a mediocre investment approach."

Retirees generally need cash

flow, he said, and they spend more time studying their investments.

"Contrary to what some might believe, I think when it comes to investing they are less carried away by emotion," he said.

Natural gas distributor suggests freezing prices

United Press International
NEW YORK — Lee Lieberman, an admitted maverick in the U.S. gas industry, believes natural gas prices should be frozen at present levels to give consumers a break from staggering increases in residential fuel bills.

sumer's gas bills have more than doubled in the past four years."

The act called for producer gas prices to rise at the rate of inflation plus 3 1/2 percent through December 1981 and then added 4 percent to inflation from Jan. 1, 1982 through 1985.

their monthly gas bills are bigger than their house payments," he said.

Lieberman advocates freezing gas prices until producers can prove their costs of bringing gas to the point of delivery warrant an increase.

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Lieberman, chairman of Laclede Gas Co. in St. Louis, Mo., "is perhaps the only large gas distributor who opposed the Natural Gas Policy Act of 1978 that established a timetable for the gradual decontrol of most gas prices by 1985."

"Under the Natural Gas Policy Act there has been one unrelenting price increase after another," he said. "It's unconscionable that the average consumer's

Lieberman advocates freezing gas prices until producers can prove their costs of bringing gas to the point of delivery warrant an increase.

"There have not been any justifiable increases in the cost of producing gas," he said. "We have witnessed a tremendous transfer of wealth to the nation's gas producers."

"The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission is completely predisposed to the interests of gas producers and pipelines. It has been deaf to the many pleas that we have made on behalf of distributors and consumers."

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Weight training better than lifting, panel says

United Press International
NEW YORK (UPI) — Weight training is a reasonably safe way for youths to build muscles, but the American Academy of Pediatrics warns youngsters to be wary of weight lifting.

There is a difference. The organization representing many of the nation's pediatricians defined weight training and weight lifting in a policy statement.

tion, actually improve flexibility.

The statement concludes: "Weight training, because of the benefits and lower potential of injury, is a reasonably safe technique that, when supervised, can be endorsed for youths. Maximal benefits are obtained from appropriate weight training in the postpubertal athlete, and minimal benefits are obtained from weight training in the prepubertal athlete."

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"Weight training is a method of conditioning that involves repetitive action (that is, biceps curl, shoulder shrug) against submaximum resistances," the statement said.

Submaximum resistance is the amount of weight of resistance that can be taken through the full range of motion for three to four consecutive repetitions.

"In contrast, weight lifting is a competitive sport with a high injury rate that should not be practiced by the pre-adolescent. Teenagers who wish to participate should have proper safety precautions and capable supervision."

Weight lifting, on the other hand, is a sport in which an individual attempts to lift his or her maximum amount of weight.

The academy statement said proper weight training does not cause a loss of flexibility or muscle-boundness. Proper training techniques, which include activities through a full range of mo-

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