

82-day teacher strike ends in Pennsylvania

United Press International
PITTSBURGH, Pa. — Teachers and school board officials in California, Pa., approved a tentative contract and classes were resumed Monday for 1,400 students idled by a bitter 82-day strike — the longest public school walkout in state history.

"Now we teachers can go back to school and this tragedy, which should never have happened, is at an end because we have a signed, equitable agreement," California Area Education Association spokeswoman Patricia Brady said late Sunday.

The agreement was reached about 8:30 p.m. Sunday and the district's 76 teachers ratified the contract by voice vote about three hours later.

School board solicitor Oliver Hormell said the full school board would meet to ratify the tentative pact "as fast as possible," but did not specify a date. In Ohio, the strike by Lake Local school district teachers in Stark County entered its 29th day Monday with no settlement in sight.

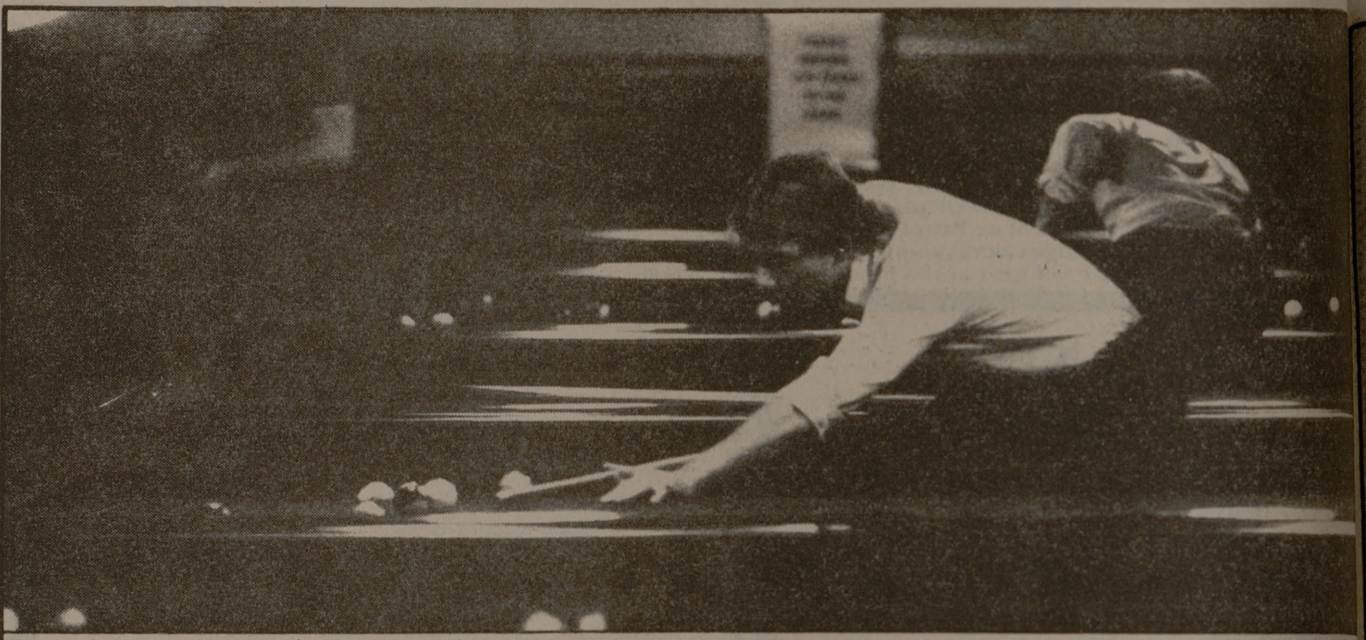
Union chief Rodney Bird said, "The board gave us an offer and we countered that

one. The talks were recessed (Saturday) by the mediator."

All but 20 of the 3,700-pupil system's 140 teachers struck Jan. 3 over wage demands. Saturday's negotiations were the first since Jan. 19.

The end of the strike came at a Sunday night news conference at Pittsburgh's State Office Building, when William Hannan, a retired labor lawyer who served as fact-finder in the dispute, held up a document, saying "I wish to announce that we have arrived at an agreement."

"I hold in my hand an agreement signed by both parties. It is the entire contract. This is it for the next four years," said Hannan. No details of the pact were revealed.



A break between classes

staff photo by Octavio

Brian Parker, a freshman from Seabrook, often takes a little time between classes and racks up a few games of billiards in the MSC basement. Rental for the billiard tables is \$1 an hour and the hours are 8 a.m. until 10 p.m. Sunday — Thursday until midnight on Friday and Saturday.

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