

Mexican labor group demands pay increase

United Press International
MEXICO CITY — Mexico's labor movement formally demanded the government authorize an emergency pay hike and concessions in the face of mounting high inflation.

Top labor leader Fidel Velazquez met Monday with Labor Minister Arsenio Farell Cubillas, Commerce Minister Hector Hernandez and Planning Minister Carlos Salinas de Gortari to present the new demands.

Velazquez said although the country's economic situation is "the labor movement has been placed in a situation that is

more serious and difficult," the Ultimas Noticias newspaper said.

"Now we are not just talking, but in full action," Velazquez said, adding he had formally demanded an emergency wage increase, a freeze on all rents and the addition of a basic foods basket to workers' monthly benefits.

Velazquez did not specify the amount of a salary hike union leaders are demanding. The government and the labor sector had already agreed on an automatic pay boost in July.

Leaders of the 5 million-

member Mexican Labor Confederation met last week after a 20 percent gasoline price hike and agreed on the demands, saying workers' salaries are not keeping pace with inflation that hit nearly 100 percent last year.

Agrarian Reform Deputy Minister Salvador Robles said more than half of all arable land in Mexico has been distributed through the land reform program, leaving no land left to give to 3 million peasants with pending claims.

"It's logical that the amount of land available (for distribution) is limited. There are 195 million

hectares (480 million acres) and 100 million have been distributed," he said. "We can't increase the amount of land."

But independent peasant leaders claimed Robles was lying. "His declarations are provocative and false," Roberto Jaramillo, a peasant leader of the Unified Socialist Party was quoted by afternoon newspapers as saying.

Heladio Ramirez Lopez, an official of the National Peasant Confederation, an independent peasant group, said "the process of land redistribution cannot be considered dead."

crowd stresses memory

Holocaust victims reunite

United Press International
WASHINGTON — Thousands of survivors of Adolf Hitler's death camps stood and chanted Monday as President Reagan promised them lasting unity in the United States.

The crowd of 15,000, which included survivors and their children, also gave Reagan a standing ovation when he said the world should never forget the annihilation of 6 million

people. He promised you that your safety here and in Israel, will not be compromised."

Reagan said at the opening ceremonies of the first American gathering of Jewish Holocaust victims.

"Our most sacred task now is ensuring the memory of this greatest of human tragedies, the Holocaust, never fades — that its lessons are not forgotten," Reagan told the crowd at the Capital Centre in nearby Landover, Md.

The last gathering of Holocaust victims was held in Israel in 1981 and drew about 8,000 people.

The four-day U.S. reunion is billed as a way to express thanks to the United States for provid-

ing a homeland to victims of Nazi oppression while also giving living testimony Hitler's "Final Solution" was real and not, as some revisionist historians have postulated, an exaggeration or the product of someone's imagination.

Participants in the gathering, many still haunted by memories of the Holocaust, set up a "Survivors' Village" at the city convention center. A computer there was programmed to help survivors locate friends and relatives.

Today, Vice President George Bush will present the keys of two government build-

ings that will house a permanent Holocaust memorial and museum.

Benjamin Meed, president of the Holocaust gathering, told the Capital Centre crowd, "We cannot forget the mighty American army crushing Hitler's forces."

"For this reason, we have assembled here in our nation's capital — the world's greatest democracy — to give thanks to those hundreds of thousands of Americans who fought to liberate us and the thousands who gave their lives to crush Hitler's Germany," he said.

GM cars recalled by EPA

United Press International
WASHINGTON — The Environmental Protection Agency is ordering General Motors to recall "just about every GM car" made in 1978-79 with certain six-cylinder engines because they are causing too much smog.

An EPA spokesman said the recall order covers "just about every GM car" made in 1978-79 with certain six-cylinder engines, and almost all models with six-cylinder, cubic-inch engines. About 1,000 automobiles are affected.

The 200-cubic-inch cars have engine numbers 910A2F and 910A2F. The 231-cubic-inch vehicles have engine numbers 940B2 and 940B2.

That covers just about every GM car they make with that type of engine," the spokesman said.

EPA said the automobiles have average nitrogen oxide emissions that exceed the federal standard of 2 grams per mile. The action brings the total number of cars ordered recalled by EPA for air pollution problems since Jan. 1 to 1.6 million. In the presence of sunlight, nitrogen oxides combine with carbon pollution to form smog, which is harmful to people with respiratory ailments and heart problems.

EPA said in a statement it is suing the giant automaker over the company's liability to fix all the affected vehicles at no cost to owners.

"GM has indicated it intends to voluntarily recall these vehicles but will limit free repair to those under six years old and have mileage under 60,000 miles when brought to the dealership," it said.

"EPA believes the act requires GM to recall and repair all of the cars at no cost to the owner. This order assures all of the vehicles will be appropriately repaired pending the outcome of the litigation," the agency added.

In Detroit, GM spokesman Cliff Merriott said the company "had already volunteered to recall these vehicles and has been

developing remedies that will bring them into conformity with the 1978 2.0-grams-per-mile standard."

Monday's recall is the second in less than three weeks for the nation's largest car manufacturer. On March 24, EPA ordered GM to recall 527,000 autos built in 1978 for causing excessive nitrogen emissions.

Electric Cowboy

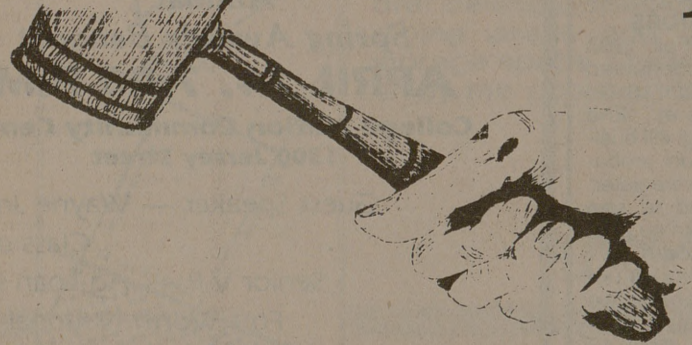
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