

# Supreme Court rejects air controllers' appeals

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court Monday rejected appeals from five former officials of the air traffic controllers' union for review of their criminal convictions under a federal law.

President Reagan fired the more than 11,000 striking controllers and labeled them as law-breakers. Their union, Professional Air Traffic Controllers Organization — PATCO — later was stripped of its legal status and eventually disbanded. The six controllers bringing the suit to the high court argued they were singled out for selective prosecution because they were union officials. More than 250 controllers participated in the strike in the Dallas-Fort Worth area, they told the court. Gary Greene and Harry Grant were presidents of the local PATCO units. Another defendant, Ronald May, had been a local unit president. They argued that in addition

to selective prosecution, they were not given fair warning that participation in a strike would carry a criminal penalty. On the discriminatory prosecution issue, the court said they had not proved they were singled out for any obvious reasons, or that the government acted in bad faith in bringing cases against these six. Greene, Grant and May were each sentenced to a year and a day in jail and fined \$750, but the judge shortened their sentences to 90 days plus probation. The 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the convictions, noting the defendants "have not proved they were prosecuted for their protected union activities, rather than for their actions as leaders and organizers of an illegal strike."

# Support measure passes for special ELS cotton

WASHINGTON — The House Monday passed a support program for extra-long staple cotton, a specialty crop in Texas, New Mexico and Arizona, that supporters say will save the government \$27 million over five years. The measure, which passed the House on a voice vote, now goes to the Senate for consideration.

at 99,000 bales last year compared to 11.9 million bales of Upland cotton. Rep. Jerry Huckaby, D-La., and chairman of the House Agriculture Committee on Cotton, Rice and Sugar, said the measure would treat ELS cotton nearly the same as Upland cotton, wheat, feed grains and rice. "This bill will save the federal government almost \$27 million over the next five years," said Rep. Arland Strangeland, R-Mi., and ranking minority member on the subcommittee, "because

of allowing the government to sell surplus ELS cotton, reduced storage and smaller commodity lean outlays." The bill includes provisions that create a target price program for ELS cotton, put the minimum price support loan rate at 50 percent of the Upland rate rather than the current 75 percent and allow the Agriculture Department to sell government-owned surplus ELS cotton at any price the Secretary of Agriculture decides is appropriate.

# Official says women belong in coal mines

WASHINGTON, Pa. — A woman's place is in the coal mines — if she chooses — and mining is better because of it, United Mine Workers President Richard Trumka said Saturday. Trumka told the Fifth National Conference on Women Miners, the first such meeting organized by the UMW, that the union also has improved the women's work environment since they first began in 1973. "You belong in the mines if you want to be there," Trumka said at a conference near Pittsburgh. "We have made the coal mines a better place to work and you've

made the UMW stronger." At a press conference later, Trumka admitted that, proportionately, more women miners are being laid off than their male counterparts. He attributed that to the layoffs occurring under a seniority system. Trumka urged women to learn every job in the mine so they become more valuable and less likely to be laid off. Nearly 4,000 women work in the nation's coal mines, the UMW said. Trumka blamed shortcuts and a desire for profit and speed of production for a mine explosion in Virginia Tuesday that killed seven miners, including one woman. "Ideally, mine disasters like

that should never, never occur," Trumka said. Trumka said that while the short-term outlook for the coal industry has dimmed, he is confident about the industry's long-term prospects. "We're not going to experience the boom growth that we anticipated six months ago," he said. "But in the long run, I see a bright, bright future for coal. It will enable us to supply our own power and energy needs, and those of our allies," he said. Trumka also said the union is for the passage of the acid rain bill calling for accelerated study of the problem with only a few intermediate actions.

# Postal ruling overturned

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court Friday struck down a constitutional 11-year-old postal law that banned competitive manufacturers from mailing unsolicited ads for birth control devices. An 8-0 ruling upheld a court decision that the U.S. Postal Service restricted free speech rights by halting the controversial mailings. Writing for the majority, Justice Thurgood Marshall declared that in situations where a speaker desires to convey truthful information relevant to important social issues such as family planning and the prevention of venereal disease, we have previously found the First Amendment interest served by free speech paramount.

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## Warped



## China left off itinerary

# Reagan to visit South Asia

WASHINGTON — President Reagan will travel to Asia in early November, visiting Indonesia, Japan and Korea, a White House spokesman announced Monday. Deputy Press Secretary Larry Speakes said the dates have not yet been arranged. China was noticeably missing from the agenda. Speakes said a visit to China remains a future possibility and the President has expressed interest in traveling to Peking, but it was not possible on this trip. "We have had discussions with the Chinese on a visit by the Premier (Zhao Ziyang) in the near future," Speakes said. He added that dates for such a visit

are being discussed and meanwhile the United States and China continue to exchange visits by high-level officials. "The president wants to reaffirm the importance we attach to the Asian-Pacific region," Speakes said. "The United States is a Pacific nation and our interests in this part of the world have grown rapidly in the past decade in the face of common challenges and the fact that our political and security arrangements in the area have taken on added importance." Speakes said the nations Reagan will visit have "a very international economic system." "As a result, we share a wide and growing range of interests with these countries," Speakes added.

Speakes said the announcement of Reagan's travels to the Pacific had no specific bearing on the Japanese upper house elections that gave Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone's Liberal Democratic Party a solid victory in elections over the weekend. The visit will take Reagan to Tokyo, the bustling capital of Japan, for talks on trade and military cooperation with the outspokenly pro-Western Nakasone, to Seoul in Korea where the United States maintains Army ground forces and Air Force personnel, and to steamy Jakarta in Indonesia, the world's largest Moslem nation with a population of more than 150 million. Speakes said Reagan has had

invitations from most of the Pacific nations. He said the president wanted to travel to the Asian region because he already has visited Europe and South America. "A visit to China remains a future possibility," Speakes said. "The premier had expressed interest and we are discussing dates." Administration officials have said it is China's turn to visit the United States. President Ford was the last U.S. president to visit China in 1974. U.S. and Chinese relations have not been smooth since Reagan became president, with his former strong ties to Taiwan a stumbling block.

# Justices agree to consider relaxing exclusionary rules

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court Monday rekindled hopes in the administration and law enforcement circles it will relax a rule of criminal evidence often blamed for allowing guilty persons to go free on legal technicalities. In a brief order, the Justices agreed for the second time in a year to consider creating an "exclusionary rule," which bars the use at trial of illegally seized evidence. Only three weeks ago, in a giant letdown for critics of the

rule, the high court announced it had tried but could not settle the issue this term. But it wasted little time in tackling it again, this time by taking up cases from Massachusetts, California and Colorado that each ask the justices to forgive honest mistakes that technically make a search illegal. The cases will be argued after the new term begins in October. In all three cases, law enforcement officials argue their evidence should be permitted in court because police acted with the "reasonable, good-faith" belief their searches or arrests

were legal. The cases give the high court its second chance to create a long-sought "reasonable, good-faith" exception to the exclusionary rule.

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