

SHOE

by Jeff MacNelly



Postmaster general warns unions not to go on strike

United Press International

WASHINGTON — Postmaster General William Bolger Thursday warned the nation's 600,000 unionized postal workers that he will fire them if they go on an illegal strike against the U.S. Postal Service.

In a separate interview, Bolger said the Postal Service has prepared contingency plans for a walkout "and will take the necessary steps to implement them if we have to."

The dismissal threat, contained in an interview with editors of The Washington Times and confirmed by a Postal Service spokeswoman, brought sharp responses from top postal union leaders.

"He's a bully. He's provocative. He's a tyrant," said Letter Carriers

President Vincent Sombrotto.

Both Sombrotto and American Postal Workers Union President Moe Biller made it clear Wednesday during a joint National Press Club speech that a strike was a distinct possibility, even though illegal.

"It's like a kid. It's like 'I'll dare you to do it,'" said Biller. "We're not going to be provoked."

Sombrotto said Bolger's threat would not prevent his union from striking, but acknowledged "it does make it more difficult in some respects."

Negotiations on a contract between the Postal Service and its two major unions representing 500,000 of the workers broke off July 20, with the government insisting on a

three-year wage freeze for current employees and a 23 percent pay cut for newly hired workers.

The unions plan to decide their next step — including a possible illegal nationwide walkout — during simultaneous conventions in Las Vegas beginning Aug. 20.

"I will fire them," Bolger said of postal employees that go on strike. "If they commit an illegal act in either wildcat or nationwide strikes, I will fire them."

Bolger's warning was the strongest by a government official since President Reagan fired more than 11,400 professional air traffic controllers in 1981 for going on strike against the government. Reagan refused to give the controllers their jobs back later.

House denies aid to rebels

United Press International

WASHINGTON — The House voted Thursday to deny aid to Nicaraguan rebels, ignoring Republican leader Robert Michel's warning that the move forces the United States to be either an "interventionist bully or an isolationist wimp."

It was the fourth time in a year that the Democratic-led House has voted to refuse covert CIA aid to the rebels, who are fighting the Marxist-led Nicaraguan government.

The denial of funds is contained in a bill authorizing intelligence operations for fiscal 1985, which was approved 294-118 and sent to the

Senate.

In California, where President Reagan is vacationing, White House spokesman Larry Speakes responded to questions about the vote by saying, "We'll continue to work for full funding of our Central American request" in the Senate.

The Senate Intelligence Committee already has approved a bill authorizing money for intelligence operations in fiscal 1985 and its measure reportedly contains \$28 million for the Contras.

While the Republican-controlled Senate generally has backed the administration's requests for funds for

the Contras, it went along with the Democratic-controlled House in June and refused to give the rebels \$21 million in additional aid for fiscal 1984.

Democratic presidential candidate Walter Mondale, in his acceptance speech last month in San Francisco, assailed the Reagan administration's "illegal war" in Nicaragua.

"The critics of the president say they cannot tolerate a secret war," said Michel, R-Ill., Thursday. "Ah, they cry, if only we were doing these things openly and above board."

Youngest heart transplant patient waging 'gallant' fight for her life

United Press International

LONDON — The world's youngest heart transplant patient, 13-day-old Hollie Roffey, waged a "gallant" fight for her life Thursday with doctors saying her condition was critical but slightly improved after a second major operation.

"The improvement is there ... a slight improvement," National Heart Hospital administrator Tom Cosgrove said.

Cocooned in a sterile, plastic bubble in the hospital's intensive care ward, the baby was waging a "gallant fight" for her life after receiving a

new heart Monday and undergoing emergency surgery Wednesday, a nurse said.

Flowers and letters of encouragement have been pouring into the hospital since Hollie's heart transplant operation when she was 10 days old.

Cosgrove said Hollie's heartbeat was almost normal and her color had improved since the emergency surgery Wednesday to correct a perforated bowel.

"We hope the next 48 hours will show further signs of improvement," he said.

Cosgrove said the main concern was that an infection could have been caused by the hole in Hollie's bowel, but said the fact that her condition had not deteriorated since the bowel surgery was a hopeful sign.

"The longer she remains stable, the longer the heart seems not to have been affected by the (bowel) surgery. It makes us more confident no infection has been caused," Cosgrove said.

"It was very bad news that we had this supplementary problem which nobody could have expected," he said.

Olympic athletes wear space-age uniforms

United Press International

LOS ANGELES — When American track and field athletes hit the sweltering Olympic competition field today, they will have a space-age advantage over other competitors.

The 111 U.S. team athletes will be outfitted in warm-up suits and competition uniforms designed by NASA scientist Lawrence Kuznetz, who has worked as a consultant with the Italian clothing manufacturer Kappa Sport for the past year.

Applying technology used in space suits for American astronauts, Kuznetz and Kappa Sport came up with a doubleknit, aluminum-coated fabric that deflects sun rays and pulls perspiration from the body. A built-in cooling system keeps sweating to a minimum.

"You feel good in them," said U.S. sprinter Ray Omstead, a member of the Olympic relay team. "They make you feel cooler. They're not like other uniforms, not like cotton... We're going to win in them."

Although American team members say they are pleased with the suits, the company made some changes after athletes complained about the silver-gray color when the uniforms were first shown in February.

"Some of the black athletes had a strong reaction (to the silver uniforms), because they said it was the color of the confederate flag," said Kappa Sport marketing coordinator Maria Pia Mottino.

Family incomes rising Census Bureau reports

United Press International

WASHINGTON — In a report certain to fuel the election-year debate over President Reagan's fiscal policies, the Census Bureau said Thursday the average family's income rose last year but more than one out of seven Americans remained in poverty.

The median family income, adjusted for inflation, climbed 1.6 percent to \$24,580 during 1983's economic recovery — the first jump in four years, the agency said. At the same time, the government's official poverty rate climbed slightly, from 15.0 to 15.2 percent, with the estimated number of people below the federal poverty line rising from 34.4

million to 35.3 million.

The bureau described the small rise in the poverty rate as "not a statistically significant change," but critics who claim Reagan's policies have hurt the poor pounced on the figures as political ammunition.

Rep. Robert Matsui, D-Calif., recalled that last fall David Stockman, head of the Office of Management and Budget, told his House Ways and Means subcommittee "he was 'absolutely confident' the poverty rate would decline for 1983."

Matsui said, "Mr. Stockman was wrong and he and this administration are going to be held accountable."

Gordon Green, a Census Bureau assistant division chief for socioeconomic statistics, said the new poverty rate offered no answer to the question of whether Reagan's policies have hurt the poor.

Green told a news conference many other factors would have to be considered, such as the impact of specific changes in social programs. He said, however, he believes the poverty rate will drop next year.

"We don't make guesses, we do even make projections on poverty but we know we are going through very strong recovery right now," Green said.

900,000 tons purchased

U.S.S.R. buys U.S. grain

United Press International

WASHINGTON — The Soviet Union's unusual summer grain-buying spree continued Thursday with the purchase of another 900,000 tons of American grain — 700,000 tons of corn and 200,000 of wheat.

The latest sales, estimated to be worth \$140 million, included 600,000 tons of corn.

The Agriculture Department reported that latest sales, estimated to be worth \$140 million according to current prices, included 500,000 tons of corn announced for the first time and 100,000 tons of corn previously reported without a destination. All 600,000 tons will be

counted toward the second year of the latest U.S.-Soviet grain agreement negotiated last summer.

Another 100,000 tons of corn will be counted toward the agreement's first year, which ends Sept. 30.

The sales of hard red winter wheat include 100,000 tons an-

nounced for the first time as 100,000 tons announced previously without a known destination. New wheat sales will be counted toward the agreement's second year.

The department reported that other 200,000 tons of American corn was purchased by private importers from foreign sellers and sent to a destination yet to be announced.

Officials have given several explanations for current heavy Soviet grain buying, ranging from an attempt to take advantage of current prices to a sign that the Soviet economy has deteriorated.

Woman charged in ticket scalping

United Press International

LOS ANGELES — The wife of multimillionaire Apple computer wiz Steven Wozniak was arrested outside the Olympics gymnastics meet for scalping a pair of choice tickets for double their face value, police said Thursday.

Police confiscated about \$11,000 worth of other Olympic tickets found in Candice Wozniak's purse when she was arrested Wednesday night outside Pauley Pavilion at UCLA.

Mrs. Wozniak, 29, was taken to a nearby command post and released after signing a citation promising to appear on the misdemeanor charge in West Los Angeles Municipal Court Aug. 15.

More than 50 people have so far been arrested in Los Angeles and several suburban cities for scalping tickets at Olympic venues. It is against the law to sell sports tickets above their face value at the site of the competition.

Officers said they heard Mrs. Wozniak call out to the crowd out-

side Pauley Pavilion that she would sell a pair of top-scale \$95 tickets for a minimum of \$300. She allegedly completed the sale, for \$400 total, after a bidding war lasting about 10 minutes.

Undercover officers then moved in and Mrs. Wozniak reportedly protested. "My husband is already in the gymnastics games. My husband paid \$100,000 for those tickets."

She claimed Wozniak was given about \$15,000 worth of tickets in return for a \$100,000 donation to the Los Angeles Olympics Organizing Committee.

The LAOOC confirmed Wozniak, who founded Apple Computer and put together the US rock and country music festivals in Southern California in the summers of 1982 and 1983, made a \$100,000 contribution.

"It's my impression that it's an innocent mistake," said LAOOC spokesman Steve Montiel. "Any tickets they had were tickets they had purchased for their own use under the patron program."

Burned-out bulb hinders satellite

United Press International

WASHINGTON — A burned-out light bulb 22,000 miles above Earth will slow tracking of hurricane headed for the East and Gulf coasts and make it harder to predict how bad and dangerous storms, experts told Congress Thursday.

John McElroy of the National Weather Service told a Senate science subcommittee that a weather satellite went blind Sunday because a light bulb burned out. He said the satellite director at the National Weather Service, the panel loss of the GOES-West satellite — launched in April 1983 — would be devastating.

"We're all hoping that does happen," he said.

Hallgren said his agency is using GOES-West — now at 135 degrees longitude — to 98 degrees longitude to cover the entire United States and protect the East and Gulf coasts during the hurricane season.

The satellite should be in place Aug. 21, and at the end of the hurricane season, Nov. 30, it will be shifted to 108 degrees for better forecasting of winter storms coming out of the northern Pacific.

The move will reduce coverage and hamper weather forecasting for Hawaii, Alaska and the Pacific.

"It was one of the choices that had to be made," Hallgren said.

He said the warning time for East or Gulf Coast hurricane warnings the make-shift arrangement would be three or four days.

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