

Canadian division to receive \$23.7 million in split from UAW

Funky Winkerbean

by Tom Batiuk

Associated Press

DETROIT — An agreement has been worked out allowing the United Auto Workers' Canadian division to split from the international union, and Canadian locals now will vote on whether to remain in the UAW or join the newly formed labor organization.

Under terms of the agreement announced Saturday, the new Canadian union will receive \$23.7 million from the Detroit-based UAW.

Canadian UAW Director Bob White had urged the split, which was approved by Canadian UAW members after White and other Canadian UAW officials complained about the settlement the international union had reached with General Motors Corp. after a brief strike in the United States last fall.

Owen Bieber, president of the international union, said in a statement: "While we continue to believe strongly that our members in Canada would be best served by remaining within the international union, we have structured the agreements reached thus far to ensure the future welfare of all our members in both countries."

Details of the agreements were being worked out in meetings in Toronto, Ontario.

Not all Canadian locals approved the split, and it will be up to them to decide which union to join, UAW spokesman David Mitchell said in Detroit. Mitchell said he was not sure when the locals would decide.

The agreement to provide a financial base for the new Canadian union was pegged to the cost of running a strike against GM, the largest company with which the UAW bargains, Bieber said.

He said the basic GM strike formula results in \$36 million in Canadian dollars — about \$26.4 million in U.S. dollars based on Friday's exchange rate of 73.3 cents for a Canadian dollar against a U.S. dollar.

About \$3.7 million Canadian, or \$2.7 million in U.S. funds, was subtracted for "outstanding Canadian liabilities to the international and real estate, buildings and equipment presently owned by the international union and which will be assumed and purchased by the new Canadian union," the statement said, leaving about \$32.3 million Canadian, or \$23.7 million in U.S. dollars, for the new union.



Health officials: food safety concerns baseless at times

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Concern about food safety has concentrated too heavily on chemical additives, while other dangers have been slighted, according to two health experts who say they rarely agree about anything.

"Additives have gotten a lot of attention, greatly out of proportion to the harm they cause," said Dr. Michael Jacobson, executive director of the private, non-profit Center for Science in the Public Interest.

"Food safety is more than just chemicals in food," reflected Dr. Sanford A. Miller, director of the Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition at the Federal Food and Drug Administration.

The two spoke separately at a three-day conference on U.S. food quality and safety, sponsored by the Washington Journalism Center.

In yielding the floor to Jacobson at the meeting, Miller joked that the two men would disagree about "virtually everything."

But they then proceeded to reach many of the same conclusions.

They concurred that there are, indeed, hazards associated with certain food additives which should be explored.

But they also indicated that these dangers are not the greatest hazard to Americans and should be considered in context of the overall diet.

"Certainly there are problem additives, but their danger is small compared to hazards of smoking, alcohol and dietary patterns," Jacobson said.

Miller warned that he sees what seems to be a "chemophobia" developing, a fear of food additives regardless of their danger or safety.

Food is far safer today than it was in the past, he said, because many unsafe chemicals have been eliminated from food uses and others are used to preserve food and protect food from other contaminants.

Concerns about food additives invariably seem to focus on cancer, Miller said, but studies indicate that as many as 70 percent of cancer cases are related to tobacco and dietary patterns.

Diet, Jacobson said, contributes to half of all deaths in the United States.

Eating too much sodium and fat contributes to high blood pressure which can lead to heart disease and stroke; fats also have a relationship to cancer; lack of fiber leads to intestinal problems and may contribute

to some cancers, and sugar causes tooth decay and obesity, he said.

There has been progress in improving the American diet, he said, with more concern about dangerous foods, improving government and private education efforts and the appearance of salad bars in fast food stores and health foods in supermarkets.

But getting enough information for a proper diet is still a struggle, Jacobson said, with inadequate labels on processed foods and little government activity in regulating food hazards or requiring manufacturers to label contents.

One of the biggest dietary changes in the last century was the decline in eating potatoes and bread, Jacobson explained.

This lack of complex carbohydrates, which are often replaced by dangerous fats and sugars, is a serious problem.

"We need to make starch not a dirty word," he added.

Miller concurred on the dangers of diet, commenting that "we've reached a point in this country when we can no longer talk about health policy and agricultural policy as separate issues. We need to talk about a national nutritional policy."

Delco

(continued from page 1)

the tuition increase to be set aside for financial aid.

Delco said the House's bill would enable the Legislature to fund state colleges and universities at 96 percent to 100 percent of their current level.

Earlier in the year, the Legislative Budget Board had suggested the Legislature fund state colleges and universities at 74 percent of the current level.

Last week, Hobby said his plan would enable state colleges and universities to maintain the present salary level for faculty members.

He also said his plan would help fund research by higher education.

But Delco said students should not have to bear the burden of paying for research and faculty salaries.

"Yes we need money for research and faculty salaries, but the core of any institution of higher education must be the development of young minds," Delco said. "That's what the institutions were funded for and that's what the taxpayers pay for."

Delco said she had opposed recent attempts to increase tuition but had to support an increase this session.

"I promised the Legislature last summer that I would make a sincere effort to bring out a tuition bill this session," she said.

Delco said she made the promise in order to turn back an attempt by the Legislature to make a hefty raise in tuition.

Last session's proposed tuition increase was tacked on to a tax package that would help to pay for public school reform, she said.

Delco said her first bill called for small increases in tuition over a longer period of time but it had to be revised once the LBB proposed cutting state college and university budgets by 26 percent.

"The bill had to raise \$200 million before it would be accepted," she said. "Everybody agreed that tuition would have to make up the difference in any budget cut."

Delco said the bill passed by the House would raise \$200 million over the next two years.

The speech was sponsored by the Black Awareness Committee and the MSC Political Forum.

New York state running on empty

Associated Press

ALBANY, N.Y. — The nation's second largest state government began running on empty as lawmakers failed to reach an agreement Sunday on a new budget before the state's spending authority expired at midnight.

The budget for the new fiscal year beginning Monday remained mired in disputes on such major items as state aid to school districts and localities, an expected welfare grant increase, and numerous other items.

Lebanese airplane hijacked, released

Associated Press

JIDDA, Saudi Arabia — A hijacker who commandeered a Middle East Airlines jet Monday and demanded millions of dollars for one of Lebanon's Moslem militias surrendered peacefully when the plane landed in Jidda.

Airport officials said all of the 65 other passengers and 10 crew members were freed unharmed. The hijacker, who officials said was armed with a pistol and a hand grenade, seized control of the Boeing 707 during a flight from Beirut, the Lebanese capital, to Jidda.

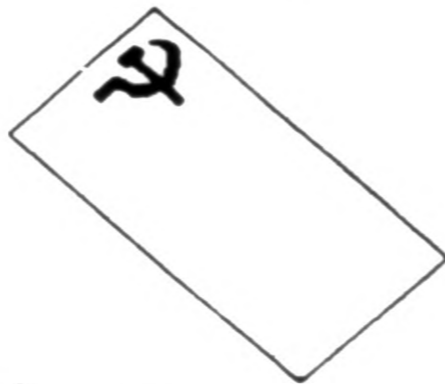
One Jidda airport official said that when word of the hijacking was received here and the plane entered Saudi air space, the pilot was told,

"Go away as it will never be allowed to land at any Saudi airport."

He said the plane circled the airport, with the control tower refusing landing permission, but, "Subsequently, the pilot told the control tower that the hijacker was willing to give himself up and end the hijacking. And the Saudi authorities at once said the plane could land."

Lebanon's state radio quoted the jetliner's co-pilot, Omar Atshan, as saying during the takeover that "the hijacker has no violent intentions. His only aim is to support the 'National Resistance' in the south."

Beirut radio stations said the hijacker belonged to the National Resistance Movement, one of the Shiite Moslem militia groups.



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