

Rand rallies, regains value

# South African miners keep working

Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa — The black miners' union, striking the nation's gold and coal mines, said thousands of workers stayed on the job Monday under threat of violence. The rand rallied strongly after government intervention, regaining value lost in last week's nosedive.

Police reported rioting in mixed-race townships, mostly around Cape Town. There were no immediate reports on casualties.

More than 650 people have been killed in a year of rioting against apartheid, the race laws that guarantee supremacy for South Africa's white minority. Nearly all the victims have been black.

"Hundreds of workers have been injured by rubber bullets and tear gas," said a statement issued Monday night by the black National Union of Mine Workers. Management spokesmen said they knew of no violence, and police said they had not been called in.

The union, demanding higher pay, issued its strike call to 60,000

men and said by late Monday that 28,000 were out. Company officials said about 12,400 workers walked out at six gold and coal mines. Black miners earn about 350 rand a month, \$157 in terms of a 45-cent rand. White miners are paid about

percent across the board.

The rand rallied with the aid of central bank intervention, regaining the value it lost last week, which caused the government to suspend trading on the currency and stock markets.

President P.W. Botha's government suspended trading on the foreign exchange and stock markets last Tuesday after the rand plunged 10 cents to a record low against the dollar of about 35 cents.

South Africa's reserve bank intervened when the currency market reopened Monday, selling dollars in support, and the rand closed at 44.95 cents.

The stock market was off sharply, but trading was light, as it usually is on holidays in Europe or the United States. Monday was Labor Day in the United States.

U.S. and European banks have begun calling in loans, and the government announced Sunday that payment of principal on foreign debts will be suspended until at least Jan. 1. It said interest obligations would be met.

**"Hundreds of workers have been injured by rubber bullets and tear gas." — the black National Union of Mine Workers in South Africa Monday night. Management spokesmen said they knew of no violence.**

2,000 rand.

It was impossible to verify the extent of the strike at the mines. Reporters were not allowed into the area and it is illegal for workers to picket outside the mine gates.

Union spokesman Howard Gabriels acknowledged that most miners went to work but said private mine security guards told them they would be fired and sent home to their black homelands if they walked out. Management spokesmen den-

strikes affected five mines.

Gold Fields of South Africa, which employs about 40,000 of the 60,000 men, said 3,500 of the 4,800 miners at its Deelkraal gold mine refused to work.

The three-year-old union claims to represent 230,000 of more than 500,000 blacks employed in the mining industry.

Mine management unilaterally granted pay raises of 14 to 19 percent, but the union demanded 22

## 11 to be tried for Wells Fargo theft

Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — A U.S. magistrate ordered that 11 Puerto Ricans charged in connection with a \$7 million Wells Fargo robbery be sent to Connecticut to stand trial.

U.S. Attorney Daniel Lopez Romo was quoted in the San Juan Star Monday as saying the 11 were transported to Connecticut Sunday night.

More than 100 federal officers guarded the courthouse Sunday as the magistrate, Justo Arenas, held separate hearings for the 11. A police helicopter circled overhead, and

law officers blocked traffic and stood guard around the building.

About 1,000 protesters carried signs and chanted outside the building, claiming the suspects were being persecuted because of their campaign for independence for Puerto Rico, a U.S. commonwealth.

As each decision was announced the defendant shouted "Viva Puerto Rico Libre! (Long live free Puerto Rico!)"

Arenas held the hearings during a 10-hour period beginning early Sunday and ordered each defendant to be sent to Connecticut for trial in

connection with the 1983 robbery.

Three other suspects remain at large, including Victor Manuel Gerena, the man identified by FBI Director William Webster as the key figure.

Webster said Friday that Gerena, a former Wells Fargo guard, had fled to Cuba with some of the money and had received sanctuary.

The 11, all suspected of being members of the Machateros — Machete Welders — terrorist organization, were arrested Friday.

## Fire burns 4 blocks in New Jersey

Associated Press

PASSAIC, N.J. — A massive fire engulfed a four-block industrial complex Monday and spread to a warehouse filled with fuel and at least 15 apartment buildings and houses, forcing more than 150 residents to flee, officials said.

The fire, which was reported at 1:30 p.m., spread to apartment buildings and homes along a six-story brick complex that houses

about 100 small businesses, fire battalion chief Frank Termyna said.

It then spread to a block-long warehouse where 16,000 gallons of kerosene and diesel fuel were stored, feeding flames more than 100 feet high, Passaic firefighter Edward Peterson said.

The blaze continued to burn out of control seven hours later.

The firefighters' efforts were temporarily hampered by turned-off

fire hydrants and low water pressure, but pressure was eventually restored. Firefighters also pumped water from the nearby Passaic River.

Firefighters evacuated residents within several blocks of the blaze, going from building to building, kicking in doors and ordering people to leave immediately. They smashed windows of parked cars to roll them away from the scene.

## Reagan plugs new tax plan

Associated Press

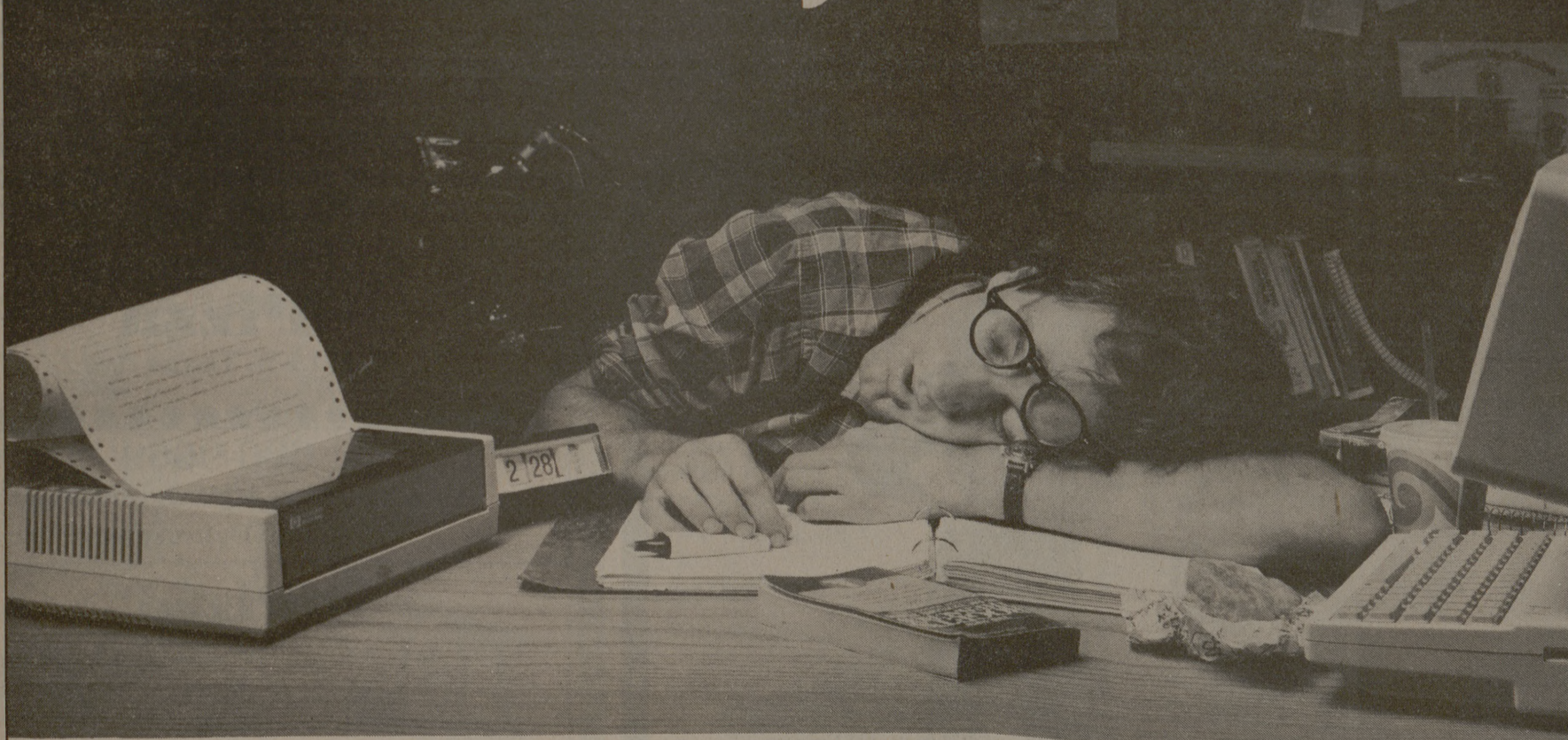
INDEPENDENCE, Mo. — President Reagan, plugging his tax revision plan with a feisty speech in Harry S. Truman's hometown, declared Monday that "we ought to take our current tax system out and string it up."

Proclaiming himself "rarin' to go" after a three-week California vacation and convalescence from cancer surgery, Reagan said the people who oppose his tax programs are "the people who have a vested interest in the status quo."

"Those vested interests just hate it when we talk about reform, and they loved it when they thought I was laid up and out of action," the president said in prepared remarks.

Reagan said the current tax system penalizes families, hinders economic growth and is not progressive as some opponents of his proposed overhaul contend.

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