Elections used as propaganda tool

South Africa's far right gaining

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa - White-supremacist parties on South Africa's far right said Thursday their broad gains in five mid-term elections proved there is a surge in white opposition to sharing power with blacks.

The governing National Party of President P.W. Botha, campaigning on a platform of gradual race re-form, won four of the five Parliament seats at stake in Wednesday's voting but lost ground everywhere to the far right.

Two ultraconservative parties slashed the Nationalists' past majority in four districts and took a seat away from Botha's party in the Orange Free State for the first time since 1953.

The National Party, in power since 1948, has a huge margin in Parliament, and parliamentary control was not an issue.

trol was not an issue.

Foreign trade

to all-time high

WASHINGTON - The coun-

try's foreign trade deficit soared to an all-time high of \$15.5 billion

in September while the govern-

ment's main gauge of future eco-

nomic activity posted a scant 0.1 percent increase, the Commerce

department said orders to U.S. factories fell 0.6 percent last month, further emphasizing the battering the U.S. industrial sector is taking at the hands of for-

The September trade deficit was 57 percent higher than the

August total as imports surged to a record high of \$33.3 billion.

The increase was led by a 54.8

percent jump in shipments of lapanese cars and a 17.6 percent increase in oil shipments.

The barely perceptible 0.1 percent advance in the Index of

Leading Indicators in September,

coupled with the drop in factory

orders, left many private economists concerned about the dura-

Allen Sinai, chief economist for Shearson Lehman Brothers, said,

bility of the current recovery.

Department said Thursday. In further gloomy news, the

deficit soars

Leaders of the far-right Conserva-tive Party and the Reformed Na-tional Party said voters showed anger over government failure to quell 14 months of bloody rioting over apartheid as well as dissatifaction with the economy and the government's approach to race reforms.

Pro-government and liberal newspapers noted that the five districts were largely blue-collar and rural and said the far-right had never

than in Wednesday's vote.

The far-right's victorious candidate, Louis Stofberg of the Reformed National Party, had made an increase of accounting the country of Seal Country issue of a couple in his town of Sosolburg who married this year after the National Party repealed laws barring interracial sex and marriage. Stofberg's pamphlets said the white man and his mixed-race wife

"could live in your street . their children could go to your

the outcome of the elections, "considering the difficult economic consequences of the recession, the drought (and) the present unrest situation in certain parts of the coun-

"We will have to continue to work and build toward a peaceful South Africa for all population groups in a responsible manner," he said, sug-gesting he would not be deterred by the far right's gains.

Andries Treurnicht was jubilant over the gains of his Conservatives and the allied Reformed National Party, which won a seat in Parliament for the first time since its formation in 1969.

While the National Party actually the near future."

26,274 four years ago to 27,062, the two far-right parties jumped from 6,899 in 1981 general elections to 22,547 on Wednesday.

Nearly 15,000 additional voters limited have black-major the near future."

By official count, more people, almost all of the have died in 14 months arising from apartheid.

and nearly all the new votes went to the ultraconservatives.

I think the main reason is (Botha's) swing away from white self-determination to power-sharing and mixed government," Treurnicht said in a telephone interview from his home in Pretoria.

Treurnicht, whose Conservative Party split from the National Party in 1982, said a major issue was voter concern over government handling of rioting: "I think it didn't act in time, and in certain cases not strongly enough. That created uncertainty, it created instability. added to the fear that South Africa might have black-majority rule in

By official count, more than 800 people, almost all of them black, have died in 14 months of violence

Utility customers donating to help needy pay for heat

The specter of poor people freezing to death because they can't pay for heat has helped raise billions of dollars to defray their bills, including millions of dollars from utility customers who are being asked to donate \$1 or more with each pay-

ment.

The federal Energy Assistance Program will once again provide up to \$2.1 billion to help poor and elderly people pay for heat this winter, although only about one-third of eligible people take advantage of the program. The average payment per household ranges from about \$60 in Texas and Louisiana to \$625 in Texas and Louisiana to \$625 in

Ten states, primarily in the Frost

Belt, have created their own programs with nearly \$200 million to supplement the federal help. In addition, a growing number of utilities are creating private fuel funds, in which stockholders and customers contribute to help the needy.

In Pittsburgh, customers of three utilities are expected to contribute \$1 million this season to the Dollar Energy Fund, which gave heating money to 4,327 people in 16 western Pennsylvania counties last winter. The fund estimates 9,000 people in its area will be without heat or light this winter.

Co., which sponsored the project. The money was distributed to 3,433 families with an average of \$88.77 per household, it said.

Mary Ann Bernald, consumer affairs manager for the industry group said about one-third of the 180 electric companies that belong to the Edison Electric Institute have such funds, which provide an average of \$50 to \$100 to needy families each winter.

About 20 percent of the 250 gas utilities that belong to the American Gas Association also have fuel funds, A Share the Warmth program in Tulsa, Okla., and Oklahoma City brought in \$304,734 last year, according to Oklahoma Natural Gas association also have fuel funds, said Terry Uhl, a spokesman for the group, which represents the largest of the nation's 1,500 gas utilities.

Juan intensifies, heads for Florida

Associated Press

PENSACOLA, Fla. - Erratic Tropical Storm Juan returned to the Gulf of Mexico and spun back up to near hurricane strength Thursday, heading for rain-soaked Florida "like a speeding truck" after causing more than \$1 billion damage in Louisiana.

At 12:30 p.m. EST, Juan rolled ashore near Gulf Shores, Ala., southeast of Mobile near the Florida

The economy is struggling. "We have a trade sector that is in deep trouble. U.S. industry is being pushed against the wall," he said. tional Weather Service said. Gale warnings were posted from Port O'Connor, Texas, to Fort Myers,

Tides 4 to 6 feet above normal were expected along the coasts of Alabama and northwestern Florida.

Florida Gov. Bob Graham cut short a trip to Washington and urged coastal residents to be ready to evacuate, as they did ahead of Hurricane Elena during the Labor

Alabama Gov. George C. Wallace

declared a state of emergency and the Emergency Management Agency opened shelters in coastal

At least seven people had been killed by the sudden, late-season storm since it sprawled along the Louisiana coast Sunday.

Seven people were unaccounted for, but four others aboard a sailboat were reported safe Thursday more than two days after they were re-

border, and was moving toward the northeast at 15 to 20 mph, the Na-Court ends pilots' strike against Continental

"As with all third-party decisions, we didn't get every-

Associated Press

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HOUSTON — A federal bankruptcy court judge issued a court or-der Thursday ending a two-year strike against Continental Airlines by the Air Line Pilots Association.

U.S. Bankrupcy Judge Glover Roberts issued the order after two weeks of discussions between attorneys for Continental and ALPA, Continental spokesman Mike Cinelli

The agreement "resolves all out-standing issues in the labor dispute between Continental and the Air Line Pilots Association," according to a statement released by ALPA's Washington office.

The settlement provides seniority protection for striking pilots who rething we wanted. However, the seniority reinstatement, severance pay and retirement fund issues were on the top of our list. The court's decision provides an orderly system for striking pilots to return to work." -ALPA president Capt. Henry Duffy

turn to work, and a severance pay option to eligible pilots who choose not to return to work for Continen-

'As with all third-party decisions, we didn't get everything we wanted," said ALPA president Capt. Henry Duffy. "However, the seniority reinstatement, severance pay and retirement fund issues were on the top of our list. The court's decision provides an orderly system for striking pilots to return to work.

ALPA walked out on Continental on Oct. 1, 1983, one week after the airline filed for court protection

ruptcy Code, slashed wages up to 50 percent and trimmed its workforce by about two-thirds.

Two other unions — the Union of Flight Attendants and the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers — also struck against the Houston-based carrier but ended their strikes in April. ALPA authorized its 1,450 strik-

ing pilots in September to seek their old jobs at Continental and temporarily suspended pickets but insisted its strike had not ended.

Of ALPA's 2,000 Continental pilots, about 1,450 have remained on strike and about 550 returned to work, Mazor said.

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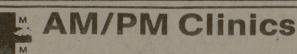
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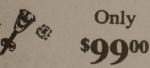
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