

World and Nation

Pope backs demands of Chilean workers for more jobs, money

CONCEPCION, Chile (AP) — Pope John Paul II on Sunday told more than 250,000 people at a Mass in this economically depressed region that he supports their calls for more jobs and higher pay.

His visit to Chile finally was free from the violent anti-government demonstrations that plagued papal appearances since his arrival Wednesday.

John Paul spoke from an open-air altar platform, under gray skies on a field outside a horse racetrack.

"You may think the pope is not aware of the preoccupations of workers in this beloved Chile," said the pontiff, clad in a traditional purple Lenten robe.

"That is not so," he said. "I know very well your concern about social justice . . . unemployment . . . wages . . . and legitimate union demands."

Concepcion is a southern industrial city of 270,000 people that has been hard hit by factory closures. It is the center of a region with an unemployment rate of 16 percent, the highest in Chile.

Police said about 500,000 people were on hand for the Mass, but independent observers agreed that the crowd was probably slightly more than half that figure.

The worshippers applauded the pontiff and waved white

handkerchiefs, a traditional Chilean symbol of approval. Some local bishops seated behind the pope also clapped.

Then bishops called forth three members of the local populace — one a coal miner in a hard hat — to receive a personal blessing from the pope.

In Santiago, the capital, opponents of President Augusto Pinochet's 13½-year-old right-wing military regime provoked clashes with the police during papal events from Wednesday through Friday. The violence left more than 260 people injured.

But John Paul's visit Saturday and Sunday to southern Chile was orderly. Finally, it seemed, Chileans were heeding the pope's repeated calls to regard his visit as religious, not political.

Church officials in Concepcion, 270 miles south of Santiago and a center of anti-Pinochet sentiment, told people not to bring political banners to the papal Mass — and they didn't.

Reporters, however, saw police frisking some townspeople headed for the Mass site. Mounted federal police troopers called "carabineros" were in evidence and a police water cannon, used in crowd dispersal, sat on the field's perimeter.

Human rights organizations charge security forces with widespread human rights abuses, including the use of torture during interrogation of detainees.

Collapse of bridge in New York traps several vehicles in water

AMSTERDAM, N.Y. (AP) — An interstate highway bridge over a rain-swollen creek collapsed Sunday, sending at least three cars and a tractor-trailer plunging about 80 feet into swirling, muddy water.

It was not known immediately how many people might have been killed or hurt when the four-lane span on the New York State Thruway collapsed shortly before 11 a.m., State Police Troop T Commander Edward Vanderwall said.

More than 50 rescue workers rushed to the scene but could not reach the vehicles because of the "boiling water" of the Schoharie Creek, Thruway Authority spokesman Arthur D'Isabel said.

Vanderwall, whose unit patrols the Thruway, part of Interstate 90, said, "There is no possibility of rescue. We still are not sure who or what is in there. . . . The water is just too high, too fast and too dirty."

Only two of four sets of supporting concrete pylons for the 31-year-old bridge remained intact. One pil-

lar of one set stood at midstream.

An estimated 350 to 400 feet of the road deck — nearly the entire length spanning the river — fell into the water.

A white car that looked like a Cadillac was wedged against trees in the middle of the river, but nobody could reach it, either, Jablonsky said. It later had disappeared, he said.

"There is no possibility of rescue. We still are not sure who or what is in there. . . . The water is just too high, too fast and too dirty."

— Edward Vanderwall, state police trooper

Both vehicles were spotted about one-quarter mile downstream, Vanderwall said. The rear end of the white car and a pair of smokestacks believed to extend from the cab of the tractor-trailer were visible. State police said there were no signs of bodies or survivors.

Bits of the collapsed bridge also could be seen in the water.

Rescue workers planned to spend the night monitoring the scene with floodlights and bring in helicopters at sunrise.

"I heard this noise, I looked up and the whole bridge was falling," said William Weller of Fort Hunter, who saw the collapse from a nearby bridge. "There was a tractor-trailer on it and a few other cars."

Other witnesses said from three to five cars and the tractor-trailer fell into the creek when the bridge collapsed.

"It's all gone," Associated Press photographer James McKnight said after flying over the site just west of Amsterdam, about 34 miles north-west of Albany, an area flooded by heavy rain over the past two days.

John Frainier, a thruway spokesman, said the flooding played a role in the collapse, but Robert Donnaruma, deputy chief engineer for the Thruway Authority, said the cause had not been determined.

New York Gov. Mario Cuomo, who went by helicopter to the scene, said all similar bridges in the state would be checked for safety.

AIDS not only widespread problem

Millions still affected by other sexually transmitted diseases

ATLANTA (AP) — AIDS is dominating the headlines, but other sexually transmitted diseases still affect millions, including a virus believed to cause cancer that is "spreading in epidemic proportions," researchers say.

Sexual contact has become the chief form of transmission of one form of hepatitis, a liver disease. And chances of getting such diseases

as herpes, chlamydia, gonorrhea and syphilis are vastly higher than the odds of getting AIDS.

"Because of the consequences of AIDS, it's very easy to say these other sexually transmitted diseases are just nuisances," said Dr. Jonathan Zenilman of the Division of Sexually Transmitted Diseases at the Atlanta-based national Centers for Disease Control.

"You don't die, generally, from gonorrhea or syphilis, and certainly not from chlamydia," he said.

"But there's a danger of them getting lost in the shuffle," he said. "They are still very much important health problems."

AIDS has struck more than 33,000 people in the United States, killing more than 19,000 so far. In 1986 alone, 12,049 cases of acquired immune deficiency syndrome were diagnosed in the United States, the CDC reports.

search is strongly pointing to the virus as a cause of cervical cancer, he said.

The virus also can cause anal cancer, most often in homosexual men, and squamous cell cancers in the mouth, he said.

Dr. Alan Lawhead, assistant professor of gynecology and obstetrics at Atlanta's Emory University and a specialist in HPV research, said, "I think HPV is probably going to be the disease of the '80s and '90s."

Researchers believe HPV can spread even when warts are not obvious, he noted. As many as 10 percent of women who show no symptoms of HPV-related disease may be infected.

Although hepatitis B, a type of contagious liver disease, is not commonly considered a "sexually transmitted disease," sexual contact has become the chief mode of transmission, Zenilman said.

Scientists estimate that 200,000 cases occurred in the United States last year, 10 percent of those becoming chronic carriers of the disease.

Herpes "really does not cause a life-threatening condition, but it certainly causes substantial emotional trauma to anybody and their sexual partners because it's prone to recur over and over again," Zenilman said.

New York Legislature facing investigation

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — The stain of the corruption scandal that toppled several of New York City's leading political figures and led to the suicide of the Queens Democratic boss has spread up the Hudson River to the state Capitol.

The 211-member New York state Legislature, whose annual budget of \$137 million is second only to the California Legislature's \$148 million, is the center of a no-show job scandal that threatens one of its top leaders.

Investigations have been opened by at least seven district attorneys, federal prosecutors from New York City and Syracuse and the state Board of Elections.

The investigation centers on state Senate Minority Leader Manfred Ohrenstein's use of the legislative payroll to hire campaign workers.

While admitting he did that last year in an unsuccessful effort to help Democrats gain control of the state Senate, Ohrenstein has maintained it

wasn't illegal and that every legislative leader has political operatives on the public payroll.

"We have nothing to hide," said Ohrenstein, a Manhattan Democrat and member of the Senate since 1960. "There's nothing sinister here."

Albany County District Attorney Sol Greenberg, said, "I don't think the funds allocated to the Legislature are (intended) to pay people to work on a campaign. It's stealing public money."

Manhattan District Attorney Robert Morgenthau has said he also is looking at other hiring practices of the Legislature and has subpoenaed the personnel records of the 12 members, all Democrats, of the Manhattan delegation to the state Assembly.

The scandal erupted with the resignation last month of Assemblywoman Gerdi Lipschutz from the New York City borough of Queens. Earlier, she had testified in federal court under a grant of immunity that she put two no-show employees

on her Assembly payroll at the behest of a top aide to Queens Democratic boss Donald Manes.

Manes resigned and then committed suicide last year as the New York City corruption scandal unfolded; he was implicated but not indicted. The Manes aide was convicted.

Last week, Morgenthau held a summit meeting with other prosecutors to coordinate the investigation. He said he had convened a special grand jury to hear evidence and had interviewed about 20 legislative employees since the beginning of the year. There have been no indictments.

Morgenthau's investigation was revealed by Ohrenstein two weeks ago after the *New York Post* quoted former state Assemblyman Clifford Wilson as saying he had been put on the Senate Democratic payroll to work on what turned out to be an unsuccessful state Senate campaign on Long Island.

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