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World/Nation

Shipyard closing angers Walesa

WARSAW, Poland (AP) — An infuriated Lech Walesa vowed Monday to fight government plans to close down the Lenin shipyard, the site where the Solidarity trade union was born.

The state-owned shipyard in Gdansk is being closed down Dec. 1. It is the first big industrial plant to be singled out for closure by the month-old government of Prime Minister Mieczyslaw F. Rakowski, who has pledged to get rid of unproductive and inefficient enterprises.

The decision was announced while the shipyard was closed on the eve of All Saints' Day and caught many workers and Solidarity activists by surprise. The yard reopens Wednesday.

A longtime foe of Solidarity, Rakowski took office Sept. 27 with a pledge to restructure Poland's aging industrial base and get the economy moving. In an interview with the BBC, he said the decision has nothing to do with Solidarity.

The announcement came during an impasse in preparations for talks between representatives of Solidarity and the government, which had been promised to Walesa on Aug. 31 during the last strike at the shipyard.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Walesa denounced the decision as Rakowski's "personal provocation . . . against the birthplace of Solidarity."

Rakowski was a firm supporter of the Dec. 13, 1981, martial-law crackdown on Solidarity.

Walesa, himself a worker at the shipyard, said in a later statement that "Solidarity will defend the enterprise, which is for the union and for the whole nation a symbol of the struggle for a new and better Poland."

The state-run news agency PAP said Rakowski on Saturday approved an Industry Ministry recommendation to close the yard. It referred to the premier's Oct. 13 speech when he presented his plan to parliament.

Rakowski told the BBC that there is no other way. "If someone wants to make the Polish economy more healthy, he has to start with very strong steps," he said.

PAP said the decision should come as no surprise because the possibility has been discussed publicly for a long time.

Rakowski replaced Prime Minister Zbigniew Messner, who was criticized as ineffectual in reforming Poland's inefficient and debt-ridden economy.

Since taking over, he has announced cuts in several government departments and allowed several independent groups to be legalized. But closing the Lenin yard is his first move to streamline Poland's heavy industry.

The century-old shipyard, the scene of

strikes in May and August, employs about 10,000 workers and was scheduled to build 11 ships this year. It constructs ships primarily for the Soviet Union for non-convertible currency.

Articles in the press have questioned its financial efficacy, with one newspaper describing the Lenin Shipyard as a "giant on partly rotten legs."

A strike at the shipyard in August 1980 gave rise to Solidarity, the East bloc's first independent trade union whose membership grew to 10 million before the union was banned in October 1982.

But the yard has been in decline for more than a decade. In the late 1970s, it produced a high of 27 ships one year. At that time, its employment was more than 15,000.

In July the yard's director of foreign trade, Ireneusz Kubiczek, said the yard was not necessarily unprofitable and its chief problem was a lack of workforce to handle all its potential contracts.

He said whether it was profitable or not was debatable, since it all depended on the costs arbitrarily set by the state for materials, taxes and credit.

Court to review presidential power

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court on Monday stepped into a simmering feud between Congress and President Reagan by agreeing to review legislation limiting presidential authority to withhold classified information.

The justices, in a case to be decided by July, agreed to consider reviving a "whistleblower" law decreed unconstitutional by a lower court. The legislation was designed to restrain the president's ability to keep national security information from Congress.

Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, who had breast cancer surgery 10 days ago at Georgetown University Hospital, was back on the bench as she and her fellow justices returned from a two-week recess.

The case involving classified information, a sticking point for years between Congress and various presidents, will provide a new test of where to draw the line separating legislative and executive powers.

The case stems from a national security directive adopted by President Reagan in 1983.

The directive requires federal officials, before they are allowed access to classified information, to sign an agreement they will not disclose the information.

The directive also created a standard form for officials to sign, promising they never will divulge classified or "classifiable" information without written permission from proper authorities.

Some members of Congress bridled at the directive, particularly the use of the word "classifiable."

They said the president is seeking to abridge free-speech rights of federal employees and impose "after-the-fact classification of information in order to punish whistleblowers for making disclosures that embarrass their superiors."

Opponents of the presidential directive also said the secrecy agreement federal employees must sign would bar them for

life from revealing information to Congress which it is entitled to receive.

Congress then enacted legislation prohibiting use of funds during the 1987-88 fiscal year to implement the standards forms Reagan had authorized. A similar provision was attached to the spending bill for the current fiscal year.

U.S. District Judge Oliver Gasch declared the legislation unconstitutional last May.

The American Foreign Service Association, representing members of the nation's diplomatic corps, and senators and House members from both political parties appealed to the Supreme Court to reinstate the law.

The Reagan administration defended Gasch's ruling.

Reagan signs international copyright bill

LOS ANGELES (AP) — President Reagan signed legislation Monday clearing the way for U.S. entry into a century-old international copyright agreement, calling it "a victory in the name of a right as old as the union itself."

The signing ceremony in a hotel ballroom was attended by a number of movie stars and executives, including entertainers Pat Boone, Cyd Charisse and Cesar Romero.

White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said they were interested in the bill since it relates to the movie industry.

Reagan said that in 1986 alone the entertainment industry may have lost as much as \$2 billion and the computer software industry as much as \$4 billion in potential revenue because its copyright laws differed from those of other countries.

The worldwide treaty provides reciprocal copyright protection for American artists and writers and those of 76 other countries. The legislation brings American copyright law into compliance with the 102-year-old Bern Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works.

The Senate ratified the treaty on Oct. 20, but legislation making changes in American copyright laws was also needed before the United States could become a full-fledged member of the convention.

Differences between American and other nations' copyright laws stalled ratification for decades, but many of the obstacles were removed when Congress enacted a sweeping overhaul of U.S. copyright law in 1976.

Participation in the convention will enable the United States to have copyright relations with 24 countries with which it now has none, officials said.

The convention was signed in Bern on Sept. 9, 1886. It spells out minimum copyright standards, detailing what is protected and how long the copyright lasts. It also bars member nations from discriminating against protected works from other member states.

Alabama to post bond in bid to stop shipment

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP) — A federal judge today ordered Alabama to post a \$564,000 bond in its court bid to block shipment of 47,000 tons of PCB-contaminated dirt from Texas to a toxic waste landfill in west Alabama.

John Scott, an attorney serving as a special assistant for Alabama Attorney General Don Siegelman, said he did not think the state would have any problem complying with the order issued by U.S. District Judge Robert Varner.

The judge gave the state a deadline of 5 p.m. today to post the bond.

A spokesman for the Texas Attorney General's Office, Jack Carter, said Texas officials believe that delaying the shipment until after a trial on the court fight between Alabama and the Environmental Protection Agency would cost Texas \$564,000.

Carter said Texas officials just want to get the dirt cleaned up.

They would not be bothered if it went someplace else besides Alabama, Carter said.

Varner has tentatively set a Dec. 21 court date, but at a hearing today he urged attorneys for both states and the Environmental Protection Agency to negotiate a settlement.

Varner declined a request by attorneys for Chemical Waste Management Inc., operators of the huge hazardous waste landfill at Emelle in Sumter County, Ala., that the court require the state to post a \$750,000 bond.

A company attorney, Tom Wells, said the higher bond would cover expenses Chemical Waste Management has incurred in preparing the contaminated dirt for shipment from a Geneva Industries site near Houston.

Scott said that Chemical Waste Management was not due protection from a bond.

Varner earlier issued a temporary restraining order that blocked the scheduled shipment last month.

Gov. Guy Hunt and Siegelman jointly filed suit to block the shipment, saying Alabama was not properly advised about the EPA's plan to ship the hazardous materials to the landfill at Emelle, even though the facility is licensed to receive PCBs.

Scott has argued that the hazardous materials should be destroyed by incineration.

Insurance industry battles ballot

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — In this state infatuated with cars but infuriated by soaring auto premiums, the insurance industry has raised a record \$42.6 million for a campaign to defeat consumer-backed ballot proposals that would slash rates by at least 20 percent.

The contest over five conflicting auto insurance reform measures on Nov. 8 ballots has grown into the most expensive political struggle ever waged outside a presidential contest.

All told, a combined \$60 million has been poured into a political war pitting consumer advocates, insurers and trial lawyers against one another.

Industry analysts express fears that support for the tougher rate-cutting measures could spawn a nationwide insurance revolt.

More immediately, if Californians approve more than one of the five conflicting measures, it could likely trigger court battles that would produce unexpected hybrids.

But polls show Californians leaning toward approval of Proposition 103, the deepest and broadest of the measures on the ballot.

Proposition 103, supported by consumer advocate Ralph Nader, would lower almost all rates by an immediate 20 percent below November 1987 rates. It would require an additional 20 percent cut in insurance rates for good drivers.

It also would give an elected insurance commissioner con-

trol over future rate increases, limit use of territorial rating to set auto insurance premiums and subject the industry to state antitrust and unfair business practice laws.

The rush to reform auto insurance was spurred by rates, which have risen 40 percent between mid-1985 and the end of 1987, according to legislative studies.

The insurance industry claims its profits in the state are slim to none.

It placed rival Proposition 104 on the ballot, a 24,000-word measure that would create a no-fault system, temporarily cut personal injury premiums by an average 20 percent and prohibit recovery for pain-and-suffering damages unless injuries result in death or permanent and serious disability.

University of Virginia professor Jeffrey O'Connell, an expert on accident law who is backing Proposition 104, said, "The key is getting a good no-fault law passed. And the bargain that the insurance industry is offering you . . . is a good no-fault law . . . I think it's a bargain you ought to strike with them."

A second industry-backed measure, Proposition 106, would limit the contingency fees attorneys could charge their clients. The fees are the payment an attorney gets from a settlement won for a client who cannot afford the regular pay-as-you-go arrangement.

Program for sixth-graders helps improve self-esteem, academics

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) — Sixth-graders in the Jackson School District will have a new kind of homework assignment this spring: Earn money to give to someone else.

The Best Program was created last year for 116 sixth-graders at Raines Elementary School, where administrators feared students from deprived neighborhoods would be easy recruits for gangs and drug dealers.

"We had a troubled group of sixth-graders last year," Raines Principal Rosalind Hambrick said. "They had low self-esteem, no self-motivation, homework was just brought in in a sloppy manner. I knew that we had to try to do something for these children before they got away from us."

"So we were looking for a counselor, a mentor, somebody, anything," she said. "We knew that Frank Melton (general manager) at WLBT-TV studios had done extensive work with gangs and troubled youth, so we called the studio and his secretary said we ought to talk with Dr. Yazdani."

Nanolla Yazdani, a psychologist, was working with Melton on developing anti-gang programs for the city. Yazdani had gained international publicity after developing a program for first-time, non-violent offenders at the Mississippi State Penitentiary at Parchman. The prison program, which he no longer oversees, was patterned after Army boot-camp — right down to the spit-polished boots worn by the inmates and their rigorous regimen of calisthenics.

Yazdani visited Raines Elementary and designed a program for sixth-graders. This summer, he trained teachers from 10 Jackson elementary schools on his program's techniques.

This spring, educators plan to expand the program to all sixth grades in the system, 2,562 pupils. Youngsters must have parents' permission to take part.

Meanwhile, some teachers are already putting Yazdani's techniques to work, like Sadie George, who oversees an after-school day-care program for pupils of all ages. Her students don't march like

Yazdani's prison recruits, but they do sound out some strong cadences.

Standing tall, heads erect and hands behind their backs, the youngsters repeat their rhythmic Best Program creed: "I am somebody; I will never use drugs."

"I am somebody; what my mind can conceive

"And my heart can believe, I will achieve.

"I am somebody; I will make you proud of me.

"I am somebody; I will do my work

"And I will love my fellow man, I am somebody."

The Best Program's definition of being somebody includes the ability and willingness to do things for somebody else. Last year, the Raines sixth-graders held car washes, then used the earnings to take pizzas to deaf students at nearby Magnolia Speech School.

The school's four sixth-grade classes worked as groups on their fund-raising, but individuals are encouraged to daily share their knowledge with others. Part

of their homework is living the Best Program motto: "Each one, teach one."

Each child is helped to identify knowledge and skills he can share, Hambrick said.

To do their best, the children are taught to stick with a task until it's completed, take criticism and think creatively.

Hambrick said she saw children disinterested in school become model students after Yazdani's 20-session program last year.

Last spring, sixth-graders scored an average of 6.5 in mathematics on the California Achievement Test, compared to 5.8 among sixth-graders at Raines the year before.

In study skills, scores went from 5.8 in the spring of 1987 to 6.8 this spring, the principal said. A score of 6 is indicative of expected sixth-grade work.

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