

# United Way goal in sight

executive director for the United Way's local branch, said the organization has solicited \$217,000 since mid-September.

He said the organization hopes to reach its final goal by mid-December.

The United Way depends mainly on mail solicitations. Kulchycski said this method brings fewer but larger donations than those gathered through door-to-door fund raising.

The pinch of inflation has hurt many of the nation's charitable organizations, but not Centre County's United Way.

The United Way in this area, which provides funds for 25 different county service organizations, has reached 95 per cent of its projected \$229,000 goal.

Dennis Kulchycski.

Charitable organizations receiving money from the United Way in Centre County include three branches of the Red Cross, the County Library, the Youth Corps, Centre Crest, United Service Organization, the County Home Health Organization, and the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts.

# Tunisians may let PLO try Palestinian hijackers

By The Associated Press

An informed guerrilla source said yesterday that Tunisia has changed its mind and will let the Palestine Liberation Organization try the four gunmen who hijacked a British airliner and killed a West German passenger.

In another development, the Arab newspaper Al Hayat quoted Saudi Arabia's defense minister, Prince Sultan bin Abdul Aziz, as saying his country has concluded an \$860-million deal with France to improve the Saudi tank corps and is shopping in the United States for other arms.

The hijackers were members of a dissident Palestinian faction that hijacked the plane with 47 persons aboard in the Persian Gulf sheikdom of Dubai 10 days ago. They surrendered to Tunisian authorities last week after receiving a promise they would not be handed over to the PLO, which condemned their action.

If the PLO actually tries the hijackers it will be the first such tribunal held.

Palestinian terrorists, including the eight who killed two American diplomats and a Belgian envoy in Khartoum, Sudan last year, have been handed over to the PLO in Cairo, but never have come to trial.

The guerrilla source, a member of the PLO in Cairo, said Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba and other officials had been persuaded to change their minds on refusing to release the four hijackers. Tunisian officials had no immediate comment.

In Riyadh, diplomatic sources said the Saudis went to the French for tanks after the United States, previously the chief arms supplier to Saudi Arabia, refused to sell them its newest model tank, the M60.

On Israel's front with Syria, military sources reported the Israelis have finished building a line of fortifications across the Golan Heights. The Jerusalem Post said the fortifications cost \$50 million and a "massive effort" was made to complete the defenses before winter set in.

# Ford requests funding for GI education bill

WASHINGTON (UPI)—President Ford yesterday asked Congress for \$813.7 million to finance the GI Bill it passed over his veto, telling the lawmakers their action will cost the nation an extra half billion dollars.

Ford presented the supplemental appropriation request 24 hours after the House and Senate voted overwhelmingly to override his veto of legislation boosting education benefits for Vietnam-era GIs by about 23 per cent. The override votes were 394 to 10 in the House and 90 to 1 in the Senate.

In a letter to Speaker Carl Albert, Ford said a supplemental appropriation of \$813.7 million was "necessitated by the congressional override of my veto" and asserted Congress could have saved most of this by adopting the more modest GI bill he had advocated.

and reduce inflationary pressures, Ford also opposed the bill's provisions for student loans and an extension of eligibility for benefits from 36 to 45 months.

Retroactive to Sept. 1, the new bill will increase educational benefits for a single veteran with no dependents from the current \$220 a month to \$270. A married veteran with no children will get \$321 instead of \$261; a married veteran with one child will get \$366 instead of \$298, and \$22 a month is added for each child up the scale.

Ash said the supplemental money would also be needed to pay for the costs of administering the new direct education loan program and other administrative costs. Under the new loan provision, a GI student can apply for up to \$600 in federal education loans if he cannot get a loan under other federal programs.

# Snowstorm hits utilities

By The Associated Press

The recent snow storm made tropical storm Agnes look like a picnic in terms of concentrated devastation, three utilities agreed yesterday.

"Agnes didn't come close to giving us this trouble, not even a fraction," said a spokesman for Duquesne Light Co. "This storm ripped out transformers and miles and miles of line. It will cost us hundreds of thousands of dollars."

West Penn Power Co., which said some 20,000 of its customers were still without power yesterday, also said Hurricane Agnes wasn't as damaging in such a large, concentrated area.

"For uniform devastation and complete destruction, we're hard pressed to find a comparable storm," said a West Penn spokesman.

And Pennsylvania Electric Co., while noting that only two of the counties it serves were crippled by the snow storm Sunday night and early Monday, said it has had customers out of service longer in those areas than any during Agnes.

"This storm hit harder in two or three counties, and in those areas it's worse than Agnes," said a spokesman.

Agnes roared through Pennsylvania in 1972, flooding communities, forcing people out of their homes and causing millions of dollars of damage.

Utilities and state officials said it was too early to tell what this storm will cost, but Pennelec alone said it would cost it well over \$1 million.

By mid-day yesterday an estimated 40,000 persons still were without electric service in western Pennsylvania, including about 15,000 in Somerset and Cambria counties served by Pennelec, another 20,000 in Westmoreland, Fayette and Washington counties, served by West Penn, and about 5,000 in Allegheny and Beaver counties served by Duquesne Light Co. The three utilities all agreed that there would still be some

customers without power by the weekend.

"We're making one repair and finding two more," said the West Penn spokesman.

Duquesne Light said its biggest problem now is in Beaver County, where 50 primary power lines and 80 secondary lines were still down.

"We still have major transmission lines down," said the Pennelec spokesman. "One transmission line, which is about 15 miles long, has 15 breaks in it, and the same thing is true of many distribution lines."

Meanwhile, Lt. Gov. Ernest Kline, acting in the absence of Gov. Shapp, directed state agencies to step up relief operations.

"The transportation department civil defense and the National Guard are stepping up their assistance to area power companies in restoring service and removing stranded residents to shelter areas," Kline said.

He added that civil defense officials have provided emergency generators to permit resumption of water supply to Somerset, Jennerstown and Central City water plants, all in Somerset County.

Meanwhile, Ben Parker, manager of Southwestern Pennsylvania Water Authority in Greene County, said about 6,000 of the company's 10,000 customers are without water because its power station on the Monongahela River is down.

"I can't get cooperation from West Penn Power Co.," said Parker. "They tell us we don't have priority. We'll be back up whenever West Penn gets in the mood."

Allegheny County Commissioner Thomas Foerster called West Penn "indifferent and insensitive" toward customers calling with reports of outages.

"Not only are they not getting any sympathy or understanding, most of them are not even getting through to the power company headquarters."

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