

Cleveland mayor plans layoffs

CLEVELAND (UPI) — His city mired in default, Mayor Dennis Kucinich planned an emergency austerity program of massive layoffs this week in Cleveland's police and firefighting forces, and union leaders vowed to go to court today to fight the measures.

Kucinich said 3,500 municipal employees, or 35 percent of the city's work force, would be laid off. As a result, a cutback in most other basic services is anticipated.

Efforts continued through the weekend, however, to come up with a solution that would lift Cleveland out of default on \$15.5 million in bank notes. But Kucinich made it clear he would not accept a state bailout that set stringent conditions, such as creation of a special board of control over city finances.

"A state controlling board would put the people of Cleveland at the mercy of the very same corrupt special interests who helped to force the politically motivated default," the mayor charged.

The city defaulted at 12:01 a.m. Saturday on the short-term bank notes. When Kucinich and the City Council failed to hammer out a compromise on restoring investor confidence by asking voters for an increase in the city's income tax from 1 to 1 1/2 percent.

Kucinich declared Cleveland had

been thrown into default by "politics" and the unreasonable demands of the city's largest bank, Cleveland Trust, which he described as "the worst of the robber barons." Cleveland Trust holds \$5 million of the notes.

With layoffs of half the police and fire departments looming — 1,000 police officers and 500 firefighters — union leaders for both groups promised legal action to stop the safety force cutbacks.

"We're already severely undermanned," said Cleveland Association of Firefighters President Jack Gannon. He and Fraternal Order of Police President William J. Gallagher said they would argue that a 1976 court decision prevents the city from making layoffs that would endanger residents.

The bulk of the layoffs would come in the police, fire, garbage collection and streets divisions. Kucinich said the cutbacks would be detailed at 3 p.m. today, after a meeting with leaders of the city's 17 unions. Those divisions have the fewest number of workers paid by federal grants.

The 32-year-old mayor said he had no choice but to prepare for layoffs, because "default leaves us wide open to claims by creditors who will be in a position to attach city income tax receipts."

If no settlement were reached to end the default and city expenditures were not slashed drastically,



Cleveland Mayor Dennis Kucinich talks with lawyer Jack Schulman about ways the city can overcome the default of \$15.5 million in loans. Kucinich's plans call for massive layoffs in the police and fire departments to make up some lost money.

Cleveland's general revenue funds would run out by mid-February and the city would sink into total bankruptcy.

Before then, however, state of-

ficials probably would be forced to create a controlling board that would have the power to sell the city's assets, raise taxes and dictate all city spending and borrowing.

Assassinations panel considers conclusion

WASHINGTON (AP) — After a \$5.8 million investigation, the House Assassinations Committee is considering a conclusion that conspiracies can neither be proved nor ruled out in the assassinations of John F. Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King.

Rep. Louis Stokes, D-Ohio, chairman, says he thinks the committee has painted publicly "the outlines of a conspiracy" involving a \$50,000 St. Louis bounty for King's assassination.

But Stokes acknowledged the committee has no proof of such a conspiracy behind King's murder in Memphis on April 4, 1968.

At the same time, a 500-page staff draft summary reportedly says there is no evidence of any specific conspiracy in Kennedy's assassination in Dallas Nov. 22, 1963, but all possibilities have not been ruled out.

The draft report says, for example,

that old evidence of organized crime links to the killing has not been proved or disproved although "there is no direct evidence" of an organized crime conspiracy.

The committee also has suggested publicly that conspiracy in Kennedy's assassination cannot be ruled out without testing a recently surfaced piece of film to see if it shows conspirators.

Robert L. Groden, a New Jersey photo technician, says his study of the film shows clear movement by more than one shape at the windows from which the late Lee Harvey Oswald has been accused of killing Kennedy with a high-powered rifle.

The committee is to vote on final conclusions this week. One proposed recommendation is that the Justice Department investigate the film and the committee's undisclosed conspiracy leads.

U.S. competing with Soviet missile design

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The Pentagon is running into new trouble with plans for a U.S. missile to cope with expected Soviet rocket advances that could make America's underground silos obsolete by the mid-1980s.

Defense sources said the Pentagon has again delayed a decision on how to launch the troubled MX missile, America's answer to any silo-killing rockets developed by the Kremlin.

The sources said a high-level Defense Department review panel has ordered a new look at a previously rejected scheme for launching the MX from a special plane flying at 20,000 feet or more above the earth.

The Pentagon had been expected to give final approval this month to plans for the new, 10-warhead missile. But sources said the panel now plans to meet around April 1 in hopes of settling the issue.

Numerous delays in developing the MX — with environmental and arms control concerns adding to the technical problems — have raised doubts the new missile can be operational in time to counter the Soviet weapons advances.

But defense sources said the latest four-month delay would still permit

completion of the MX project by the latest disclosed target date, 1986.

The sources said the Pentagon is now looking anew at the possibility of launching the MX from wide-bodied, jet transport planes, which can take off from short runways. The recently developed planes, known by the Air Force as AMSTs, would hopscotch among small airfields to escape attack before finally taking off to launch their weapons.

Air Force experts, who previously dropped plans for an air launch, had appeared to be favoring the \$20 billion Multiple Aim Point proposal to shuttle each of 200 missiles among 20 or more holes in the ground.

The sources said defense experts are leaning in favor of an air launch, but one possible hitch might be the difficulty in building the special plane needed within the same \$20 billion figure estimated for MAP.

A decision in favor of an air launch would require a smaller missile — a 120,000 pound weapon instead of the 180,000 pound rocket required by the MAP plan. Defense Secretary Harold Brown has asked President Carter to call on Congress in January to allocate \$190 million to start work on the MX.

Information revealed at coroner's inquest

Peoples Temple left \$7 million to Soviets

GEORGETOWN, Guyana (UPI) — The Peoples Temple of the Rev. Jim Jones directed that more than \$7 million be left to the Soviet Communist Party to help "the oppressed peoples all over the world," according to evidence presented at a coroner's inquest yesterday.

The inquest into the mass suicide-murder of more than 900 people at the cult's jungle commune and the slaying of Rep. Leo Ryan, D-Calif., received a letter signed by Annie G. Moore, a nurse and the cult's financial secretary.

That letter, addressed to Soviet Embassy official Fedor Timoseyev, and other letters instructed him how to draw the money from the banks.

The letter said, "I am doing this on behalf of the Peoples Temple because we as communists want our money to be of benefit for and to help the oppressed peoples all over the world or in any way your decision-making body sees fit."

The letter, one of five given as evidence by Guyanese crime official Cecil Roberts, said the Peoples Temple funds were in two Panama-based banks, the Union Bank of Switzerland and the Swiss Banking Corp.

Another letter, signed by Maria Katsaris, Jones' secretary, told of an undisclosed sum in the Banco Union De Venezuela which was also to go to the Soviet Communist Party.

The letters were found by police in a suitcase which three cult survivors — Michael Prokes, Tim Carter and his brother, Mike — had been ordered to take to the Soviet official in Georgetown along with several hundred thousand dollars.

"I, Maria Katsaris, leave all the money in the Banco Union De Venezuela in Caracas to the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. The person to contact is Mr. Heddacich at the main branch of Banco Union," Katsaris wrote. "This is my final wish before I die."

Other material already published in the Guyanese government press had indicated that Peoples Temple officials

had been in touch with Soviet officials to discuss the possibility of moving of the commune to the Soviet Union.

Also during the hearing, cult survivor Odel Rhodes, 26, testified that during the mass suicide-murder Nov. 18 Jones kept urging his members to bring babies first.

Rhodes said a woman named Rounetta Paul took up her 18-month-old son, Robert, squirted the liquid down his throat, shot some down her own throat, walked to a nearby field and sat down to await death.

After that, he said, other women lined up with babies and other children to get syringes.

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