

News briefs

Uniroyal workers strike called

By The Associated Press
The United Rubber Workers union called 8,200 members out on strike at a dozen Uniroyal plants yesterday in a dramatic showdown with the big tire maker over President Carter's anti-inflation wage guidelines.
The strike is against the Carter administration as much as Uniroyal Inc., as the union seeks to win a new contract that exceeds the president's voluntary 7 percent annual ceiling on wage and fringe benefit increases.
"Hey, Carter, we can't live on peanuts," proclaimed one picket sign outside a Uniroyal tire plant in Detroit as 800 day-shift workers walked off the job in observance of a noon strike deadline.

A typical rubber worker now makes a little more than \$8 an hour.
Uniroyal, the nation's third largest tire company, has "pledged to uphold the guidelines," company spokesman James F. Hill said shortly after the strike began.
The administration has exerted considerable pressure on Uniroyal and other tire companies to resist wage settlements that exceed the already stretched guidelines.
Several presidential inflation advisers acknowledged privately that they were encouraged that Uniroyal was willing to take a strike rather than give in to a guidelines-busting settlement.

Nuclear moratorium approved

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The House committee that will investigate all aspects of atomic energy voted yesterday to clamp a moratorium on construction permits for new nuclear power plants.
On a 23-7 vote, the House Interior Committee attached an amendment to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission authorization bill which would ban issuance of permits for the first six months of the new fiscal year starting Oct. 1.
Speaker Thomas O'Neill said he would be surprised if the full House did not back up the panel because "there's a go-slow feeling in the House toward nuclear."
Committee chairman Morris Udall, D-Ariz., who spoke against the measure but abstained from voting, said it was a meaningless, although highly symbolic, gesture.

"It is inconceivable that any utility in its right mind will start planning (new plants) until the dust settles a bit," Udall said.
"In practical terms, I think we're going to have a moratorium through the next 10 months."
Udall said he was in sympathy with the majority, but that because his energy and environment subcommittee has planned a detailed investigation, it would ruin the credibility of that inquiry to start "peeling off one piece" after another and making decisions without hearings.
But Rep. Edward Markey, D-Mass., who proposed the moratorium, said: "It is not a pro-nuclear amendment or an anti-nuclear amendment. It's a pro-safety amendment."

Iran executes Jewish magnate

TEHRAN, Iran (UPI) — A firing squad yesterday executed eight men, including Iran's Jewish "plastic king," who was accused of "connections with Israel and Zionism."
It brought to 29 the two-day total for executions of supporters of the ousted shah. The sentences followed the biggest mass execution in a single day Tuesday in which 21 persons were shot after summary trials in Tehran's Qasr Prison.
Among those executed yesterday was 61-year-old Habib Elghanian, called the "plastic king" because of his industrial empire. Elghanian, patriarch of a prosperous Iranian Jewish family, was accused of betraying Iran through his "connections with Israel and Zionism."



Habib Elghanian

Nuclear utility facing insolvency

JOHNSTOWN (AP) — General Public Utilities Corp., the owner of the damaged Three Mile Island nuclear complex, said yesterday it may be facing insolvency despite cutbacks in employment, construction and salaries.
The nation's 16th-largest utility has been negotiating with a group of banks for \$450 million in new, short-term loans to ease it out of the financial squeeze caused by the accident, chairman William G. Kuhns said at the company's annual stockholders meeting.
Without the loans, "We'd very quickly run out of cash," Kuhns said. "In a few months, the entire GPU system would face insolvency."
GPU has been spending \$800,000 a day to replace the loss of nuclear power since the accident at the \$1.3

billion complex March 28.
Kuhns said GPU's work force of 11,500 will be trimmed by 5 percent through layoffs, early retirements and attrition. Some workers will be given the option of transferring to posts at Three Mile Island rather than face layoffs, he said.
GPU previously halted new construction and cut its quarterly dividend by 20 cents to 25 cents a share. Directors will discuss the company's future dividends on July 12.
John G. Graham, GPU's vice president and treasurer, said the cash crisis could hit the company's Metropolitan Edison and Jersey Central Power and Light subsidiaries as early as July, when the two companies could reach their legal short-term borrowing limits.

Women's panel leader named



Lynda Bird Robb

WASHINGTON (UPI) — President Carter yesterday appointed Lynda Bird Robb, wife of Virginia Lt. Gov. Charles Robb and elder daughter of the late President Lyndon Johnson, to chair the National Advisory Committee for Women.
Robb, 35, will succeed former Rep. Bella Abzug, D-N.Y., who was fired by presidential assistant Hamilton Jordan in January.
Following Abzug's firing, about half of the committee members resigned in protest.
Arlie Scott, vice president for action programs for the National Organization for Women, the nation's largest women's lobbying group, said the appointment of Robb appeared to be a political one.
"Lynda Robb is supportive of ERA and supportive of women's issues, but she hasn't been identified as a women's advocate," she said.

Daniel Flood retrial scheduled

WASHINGTON (AP) — The retrial of Pennsylvania congressman Daniel Flood will begin as scheduled June 4 and will be heard by a sequestered jury, U.S. District Court Judge Oliver Gasch said yesterday.
Gasch said he was hopeful the proceedings would be concluded by June 27, when he is scheduled to attend a judicial conference.
The government's prosecuting attorneys were confident they could complete the trial in the allotted time, but Flood's lawyers were doubtful.
"It has been my experience that a second trial takes longer than the first," said Flood attorney Axel Kleiboemer, who argued the 75-year-old congressman's 12-day trial last February.

"This case turns on the credibility of government witnesses and calls for a careful cross-examination of their testimony," Kleiboemer said.
Flood, a Democrat from Wilkes-Barre, is accused of taking more than \$50,000 in bribes in return for using his influence as chairman of the powerful congressional subcommittee on labor, health, education and welfare.
After Flood's first trial ended in a hung jury, it was learned that a lone juror who held out for acquittal had told other sequestered jurors he had confidential information that could help exonerate the lawmaker.
During a government investigation, the juror said he was joking when he claimed to have a source who gave him the information.

Tax division reforms ordered by governor

HARRISBURG (AP) — Gov. Dick Thornburgh ordered a series of cost-cutting reforms and fired a Revenue Department official yesterday after an Easton man was charged with defrauding \$73,000 from the state in a sales tax scheme.
Joseph Marzouli, owner of the Keystone Courier Service in Easton, was charged by the state Justice Department with 2,256 criminal counts involving alleged racketeering, theft, forgery and failure to pay taxes.
Marzouli, who picked up tags and licenses for auto dealers, allegedly altered state forms to show that no tax was due. Then he would deposit the sales tax checks into his own bank account, according to the charges.
If convicted on all counts, he faces a maximum jail term of 11,277 years.
"The importance of this information is that the arrest has given rise to significant reforms that will produce significant savings to the taxpayers," Thornburgh said at a news conference.
As part of the reforms, Revenue Secretary Howard Cohen fired Robert Kintzer from his \$19,000-a-year post as

director of the Motor Vehicle Sales Tax division.
Cohen said Kintzer, the son-in-law of state Rep. Bernard Novak, D-Allegheny, was not involved in the alleged fraud scheme but "was not doing the kind of job I want done."
"We didn't fire the son-in-law of a legislator. We fired a man who in the secretary's judgment was not doing his job properly," Thornburgh said.
One management post and 15 other positions are being eliminated from the sales tax division and regulations will be tightened to close loopholes and streamline operations.
Other reforms include consolidating operations, speeding up cash deposits and tighter controls on couriers and other private agencies.
"This will correct the deficiencies in the system that allowed this to happen," Cohen said. "This is one of those cases that actually reduces the work force, spends fewer dollars and does a better job."
Thornburgh said the plan will save taxpayers more than \$200,000 a year when it is implemented by Aug. 1.



Step right up
Rep. Toby Roth, R-Wisc., stands by a stack of 100 gas cans and a garbage truck to emphasize that 72 pounds of garbage can be converted into the energy equivalent of one gallon of methyl alcohol. With him are his staff members Joelle Pochop, left, and Mary Braithwaite.

U.S.-China trade agreement may be initialed

PEKING (UPI) — U.S. Commerce Secretary Juanita Kreps said yesterday it was possible a U.S.-China trade agreement could be initialed before she leaves China Monday and disclosed that the two countries have agreed to begin negotiations on opening direct air travel.
American officials also expressed hope that a trade pact can be concluded within five days despite what Kreps called an impressive list of complications.
She said that at a meeting with Chinese Civil Aviation Director General Shen Tu it was agreed to "initiate formal negotiations on an aviation agreement."
"We think this is an important element of our trade relations," Kreps told U.S. journalists. "Until now no formal commitment to make negotiations had been

made. This agreement to go ahead on negotiations is important."
Kreps and Shen agreed "direct air links between China and the United States would facilitate commercial ties and closer friendship between the peoples of China and the United States," U.S. officials said. If the agreement is concluded, a U.S. airline could land in Peking and the Chinese airline would fly to principal American cities.
Kreps said it was unlikely the bogged-down trade pact could be initialed before she departs on a tour of the country early tomorrow because "the number of things we have outstanding still is very impressive."
But she told journalists it is "possible" that the negotiators working late into the night could piece

together a trade agreement to be initialed before she leaves China Monday for Hong Kong.
"It's a matter of how fast we can move through the complications," she said.
One hurdle is the U.S. 1974 Trade Act requiring that in a trade agreement the foreign country must agree on business facilities in each other's country, industrial cooperation and protection of patents and trademarks.
Another obstacle is the still unsigned agreement on China's compensation for American assets seized in 1948 by the Communist regime in 1948. The agreement was initialed in January but has not been signed because both sides requested changes in it.
Kreps said discussions continued yesterday on the assets issue and "we are making progress."

Price council announces probable violation

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The Council on Wage and Price Stability yesterday announced its first finding that a company is out of compliance with President Carter's voluntary price guidelines.
The finding was made against the cement division of Ideal Basic Industries, of Denver, Colo., one of the nation's major cement manufacturers, with 14 plants around the country.
The company disputed the finding and asked that it be reconsidered.

Until this reconsideration has been completed, the firm will not officially be listed by the council as out of compliance and provisions barring it from government contracts would not go into effect.
The council said the cement division — not the whole company — had already made price increases during the first six months of the voluntary wage-price guideline program larger than it is entitled to during the entire first year. The program year began in October.

It issued a "notice of probable non-compliance" against the company April 6. The company replied with data to support its claim that it is in compliance. The council reviewed this material and found against the company.
In a statement issued by the company, President John A. Love "strongly disagreed" with the finding. Love is a former Republican governor of Colorado and later served as the U.S. government's top energy official.
The company said the council based its decision on quarterly sales data which is "unrealistic" for companies like Ideal, which historically have announced annual price changes in the fall to become effective at the start of the calendar year.
It said Ideal announced price increases in 1978 before the administration's program began and has no plans for further increases this calendar year.

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UNIVERSITY CALENDAR
SPECIAL EVENTS
Thursday, May 10

Special dinner, "End of Another Year," live entertainment, 4:45 - 6:45 p.m., HUB Terrace Room.
5 O'Clock Playwrights Theatre, On A Ledge Sitting Sideways and Doo Doo, 5:30 p.m., The Pavilion Theatre, through May 11.
Education Policy Studies, John Ohliger, adult education consultant, 7:15 p.m., Room 109 Chambers.
Penn State Dames meeting, 7:30 p.m., Room 101 Kern.
Dept. of Philosophy, Dotter Lecture, 8 p.m., HUB Assembly Hall. John J. McDermott, Texas A&M Univ., on "Quo Vadis America? Towards a Celebration of Transiency."
Penn State Thespians, Lil Abner, 8 p.m., Schwab, through May 12.
University Theatre, A Midsummer Night's Dream, 8 p.m., The Playhouse, through May 12.
Meetings:
Alpha Rho Chi, 7 p.m., Room 204 Engineering D.
Hillel, 7 p.m., Room 314 Boucke.
Model RR Club, 7:30 p.m., Room 309 Boucke.
Students for PennPIRG, 7:30 p.m., Room 316 Boucke.
Wargamers, 7 p.m., Room 107 Sackett.

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