Kania attempts to stem strike at Polish steel mill

WARSAW, Poland (UPI) — New Communist party boss Stanislaw Kania yesterday took his message of conciliation with firmness to Poland's grimy industrial center of Katowice where authorities attempted to head off a strike at the nation's largest steel mill.

Kania's apparent bid for support came as reports persisted of scattered strikes nationwide and dissidents were attacked by the press for the first time since the historic agreement between the government and strikers along the Baltic coast took the main punch out of the non-violent workers revolt.

The official news agency PAP briefly noted that Kania, a relative unknown who replaced ousted party leader Edward Gierek early Saturday, met with party activists in Katowice, in the center of the Silesia mining region.

At the same time, Foundry Minister Franciszek Kaim met workers at the Katowice steel mill, the largest in Poland, in hopes of averting another walkout there.

Workers at the foundry staged a 24-hour "warning" strike Aug. 29 and threatened a fullscale walkout yesterday unless the government met six demands.

A strike committe spokesman said Kaim had approved most of the demands, such as construction of a foundry hospital, but it would take a few more days to settle the remaining issues.

One complication was the presence at the foundry of Kazimierz Switon, an early free trade union activist who is not a foundry worker. The workers have demanded Switon not be arrested as police have threatened.

Kania's trip to Katowice came a day after a similar trip to Gdansk, heart of the wave of paralyzing strikes that swept through Poland.

In Gdansk, newspaper reports said Kania stressed the need for worker-party cooperation and affirmed that authorities would honor its agreement with the workers, including the formation of free trade unions, the strikers' No. 1 demand.

But he also warned that "wherever the operation appears against the interests of the socialist state and the nation, we shall show our full determination."

Free trade union leaders and activitis in Gdansk, the nearby seaport of Gdynia and in Warsaw reported blue collar workers and professionals alike were seeking to become members.

One free trade union center, working out of an office in the Catholic Intellectuals Club in Warsaw, said representatives of staff from at least 180 factories, professional associations, printing houses as well as state-run television and radio have registered.

News briefs

Labor makes wage concessions

WASHINGTON (AP) — Faced with growing worker layoffs and threatened plant shutdowns, many of the nation's biggest unions are granting mid-term contract concessions to help some large but ailing employers make it through the recession.

Labor observers say the past year has seen an unprecedented number of wage concessions by unions representing some of the best paid blue-collar workers. They see it as a sign of unions' growing concern about an uncertain domestic economy challenged by increased competition from abroad.

"It reflects a growing awareness of some unions that a job at $8 an hour is better than no job at $10 an hour," said Nick Fidandis, an official at the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service.

The Teamsters, the nation's largest union, may provide the latest example of wage concessions later this month.

The union will sit down tomorrow in Chicago with trucking executives to consider renegotiating its national freight contract for the first time to provide financial relief for companies shaken by the recession and a new law deregulating the industry.

Nearly 18 months ago, the union struck for 10 days before winning a three-year contract that provided wage and benefit increases exceeding 10 percent a year for some 300,000 drivers and warehouse workers.

With between 23,000 and 60,000 of those workers on layoff, the companies are now seeking to defer two cost-of-living wage increases and to obtain other concessions they say are needed to keep the unionized industry healthy and competitive with non-union firms that are rushing into the trucking business.

Major contract concessions within the past year have included the United Auto Workers and Chrysler Corp., the United Steelworkers and Wheeling-Pittsburgh Steel Corp., the United Rubber Workers and Uniroyal, Inc.

Lance refuses private testimony

UPI wirephoto

Bert Lance

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Bert Lance refused to give a private sworn statement on Billy Carter's Libyan affairs to Senate investigators yesterday saying, "I don't intend to be abused, smeared and vilified by well-orchestrated leaks."

Lance entered a hearing room with two lawyers, his wife and two sons, but came out an hour later. He said he had not given the requested deposition because reporters were not allowed in.

He said he is perfectly willing to testify in public.

"There comes a time when a man has to stand up for what he believes in," the former budget director said.

Lance said he feared the Senate judiciary subcommittee investigating Billy Carter's Libyan deals would leak portions of his testimony to put a good light on the probe — and perhaps harm him in the process.

While Lance indicated he has no intention of changing his mind, he denied he had said outright that he would go to jail rather than comply with the Senate's request for a private deposition.

He made clear he is bitter about leaks that occurred during months of federal investigations of his banking practices in Atlanta and his dealings with a peanut warehouse once operated by President Carter and Billy Carter.

Mental hospital can be closed

HARRISBURG (AP) — The state should be able to close Retreat State Hospital because there is no law saying it must be kept open, an attorney argued yesterday before Commonwealth Court.

The Luzerne County facility is the object of a long-running tug-of-war between the state, which wants to close it, and a coalition of legislators, union leaders and patient representatives intent on keeping it open.

"There is no legislative mandate to keep the hospital open," said Jonathan Vipond, representing Gov. Dick Thornburgh and the Welfare Department.

"There has been no legislative direction. There is no statute on the books . . . that Retreat State Hospital may not be closed," he said.

The Welfare Department wants to transfer Retreat's 150 patients to other institutions, but is currently under a court order not to phase out the facility.

The department said the hospital, which serves the mentally handicapped, is too expensive to run and too old to provide the best care available.

But Richard Kirschner, representing the father of a Retreat patient, accused the state of insensitivity and said transferring patients could have dire consequences, including death.

"This case is being dictated solely by . . . economic expediency and nothing else," he charged. "For many of these people, Retreat is their home. These people have their roots there. They know no other universe."

Vipond said transfers would involve "some disruption," but he said patients do not have a right to continued occupancy in a particular institution.

"Is the hospital depriving patients of life or liberty by transferring them to another facility that may be more appropriate?" he asked.

State welfare bill in jeopardy

HARRISBURG (AP) — A Senate committee chairman said yesterday that an administration bill purging 81,000 people from the welfare rolls will not reach the Senate floor unless it is rewritten to his satisfaction.

Sen. W. Louis Coppersmith, D-Cambria, said he has 15 amendments in mind for the bill, which would cut off $172-a-month cash grants to able-bodied welfare recipients.

"There's no chance of the bill getting out of the committee without the amendments," Coppersmith told reporters at at news conference. "We're not gutting it . . . we're refining it.

The major change Coppersmith proposes would cut the cash grants to persons between age 18-60. As passed by the House, the bill pushed by Republican Gov. Dick Thornburgh's administration sets the limits between age 16-55.

Under his plan, Coppersmith said, there would be about 18,000 fewer people eligible for the monthly dole. Pennsylvania is one of the few states offering across-the-board cash assistance for people without jobs, but capable of working.

Asked about the chance of getting his amendments approved when the committee meets Monday, Coppersmith said, "It's probably a long-shot."

Another Coppersmith amendment allows those already on the general assistance rolls to continue receiving their grant. He said on the average, a person stays on the cash assistance rolls for about six to eight months.

"All the people on general assistance will be grandfathered in under my plan," Coppersmith said. "They won't be removed unless they refuse to take a job."

Coppersmith estimated the savings would be up to $75 million — compared to a $96 million savings estimated for Thornburgh's version. He said the money would go to other areas of welfare such as aid to families with dependent children.

UNIVERSITY CALENDAR
SPECIAL EVENTS
Wednesday-Thursday, Sept. 10-11

Wednesday, September 10
Alard String Quartet recital, 12:45 p.m., Room 112 Kern.
Chess Club meeting, 7 p.m., Room 301 HUB.
Black Film Series, Watermelon Man, 7:30 p.m., Robeson Center.
Dairy Science Club meeting, 7:30 p.m., Room 201 Borland.
Froth meeting, 7:30 p.m., Room 308 Boucke.
Penn State Equestrian Team meeting, 8 p.m., Room 119 Boucke.

Thursday, September 11
School of Music Common Hour, 1 p.m., Music Bldg. Recital Hall. Billy Taylor, musician/composer, speaker.
Sports: field hockey vs. Bucknell, 3 p.m.
Camera Club meeting, 7 p.m., Room 75 Willard.
Cinematheque, Carrie, 7 and 9 p.m., HUB Assembly Hall.
Conversation with Billy Taylor, 7 p.m., Robeson Center.
Sigma Iota Epsilon meeting, 7 p.m., Room 320 Willard.
Penn State Dames meeting, 7:30 p.m., Room 101 Kern.
PSORML meeting, 7:30 p.m., Room 173 Willard.
GSA film, Lawrence of Arabia, 8 p.m., Room 10 Sparks.
Campus Bible Fellowship, 8:30 p.m., Room 314 Boucke.

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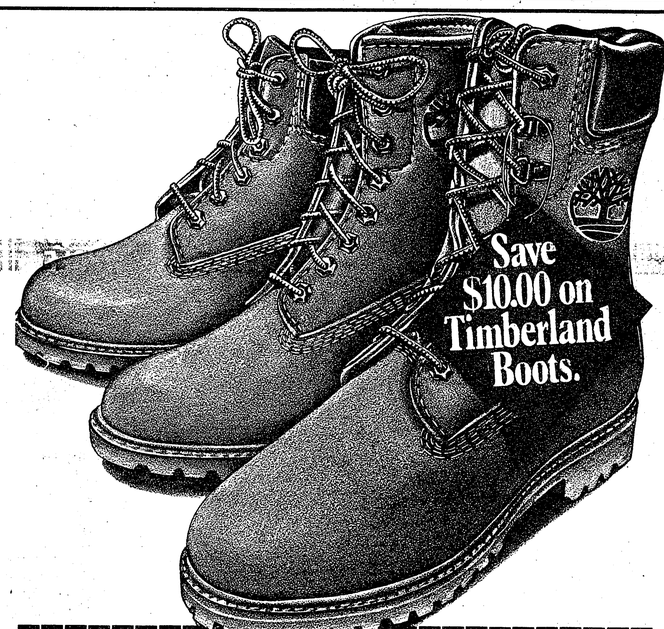

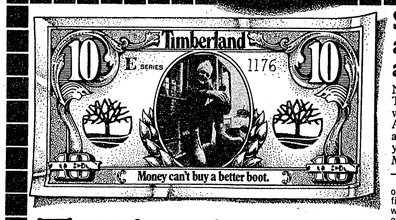

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NOW opposes anti-abortion bill

By DAVID MEDZERIAN
Daily Collegian Staff Writer

The Centre County chapter of the National Organization for Women has come out in opposition to the recent anti-abortion bill introduced into the Pennsylvania General Assembly by state Rep. Gregg L. Cunningham, R-Centre Region.

"If they manage to let this thing die in committee, we're probably better off," said NOW member Colina Jordan at the chapter's first fall meeting last night.

The bill in question is in front of the state Health and Welfare Committee, where Jordan feels it may die because she feels many congressmen do not want to vote on such a controversial issue during an election year.

"An awful lot of silly bills get stuck in committee and never get out," she said. "At this moment, I'm just watching."

In other business, chapter President Vandlia Wayland said that two of the three candidates for state representative are unsuitable, but stopped short of a direct endorsement.

"Cunningham is totally unacceptable, and the Democratic committee has withdrawn support from Robert C. Brazill," she said. "There is a third candidate."

Wayland, who also serves as vice-chairman of the State College Democratic Committee, is not allowed to endorse any candidate other than that of the Democratic Party.

But Jordan spoke highly of independent candidate Michael G. Day, calling him "a courageous man, and the only one running on the pro-choice issue."

Nancy Touchette, member of the chapter's Political Action Committee, said that Day is the only acceptable candidate, because of both Cunningham and Brazill's stance on the abortion issue.

"He (Day) is the only one who takes a pro-choice stance," Touchette said, "and the only one who takes a pro-ERA stance."

The chapter is co-sponsoring a rally in Harrisburg with Planned Parenthood on Tuesday, September 16, to protest Cunningham's bill.

"We've got an election coming up," Wayland said, "and Cunningham does not have to be re-elected."

Production costs cause student handbook deletions

By PAM MEDVE
Daily Collegian Staff Writer

Information about student services and organizations was deleted from the 1980-81 edition of the Penn State Student Handbook to avoid spiraling costs, said Raymond O. Murphy, vice president for student affairs.

Student life photographs were also excluded.

If the information and photographs had been included, costs for reproducing last year's handbook would have increased from $30,000 to $57,000, Murphy said. Higher printing costs accounted for the price rise, he said.

By slimming the book down, this year's cost was $23,000, he said.

However, Easy Access, a list of University resources and their telephone numbers, and TIPS, telephone information for Penn State, have been expanded, he said.

"The combination of TIPS and Easy Access would give students a fair shot at learning what programs are available," said M. Lee Upcraft, director of residential life and the student assistance center.

However, "it certainly is a lot less than the students had last year," he said.

University policy requires rules to be included in the handbook every year, Upcraft said, because they constantly change.

A pamphlet describing all University student organizations will soon be distributed, said Melvyn S. Klein, director of student activities.

"The pamphlet is a big savings in cost," he said.

Ten thousand copies of the pamphlet, called "Student Organizations," will be distributed in residence halls and will be available at the HUB desk, Kern Building and the Organization of Town Independent Students office, Klein said. The pamphlets will include an updated description of each group, he said.

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