

Irish hunger strikes end Top official pledges prison reforms

BELFAST, Northern Ireland (AP) — Britain's top official in Northern Ireland pledged yesterday to implement prison reforms for all inmates now that jailed Irish nationalists have ended their hunger strike.

"There are certain reforms which can be introduced. We will now try to see what we can do about them," Northern Ireland Secretary James Prior told reporters before departing for Belfast from Norwich in eastern England.

The violence-torn province was reported quiet. Police reinforcements were called up in Londonderry, Ulster's second largest city, where about 1,500 mostly Roman Catholic supporters of the hunger strike and 200 followers of the hard-line Protestant leader, the Rev. Ian Paisley, staged demonstrations in separate parts of the city. No incidents were reported.

At Belfast's City Hall, about 300 Protestants and Catholics gathered for the annual co-denominational "Witness for Peace" service, carrying small white crosses in memory of the more than 2,000 victims of Northern Ireland's 12 years of sectarian violence.

Prior, after arriving in Belfast, conferred with top prison

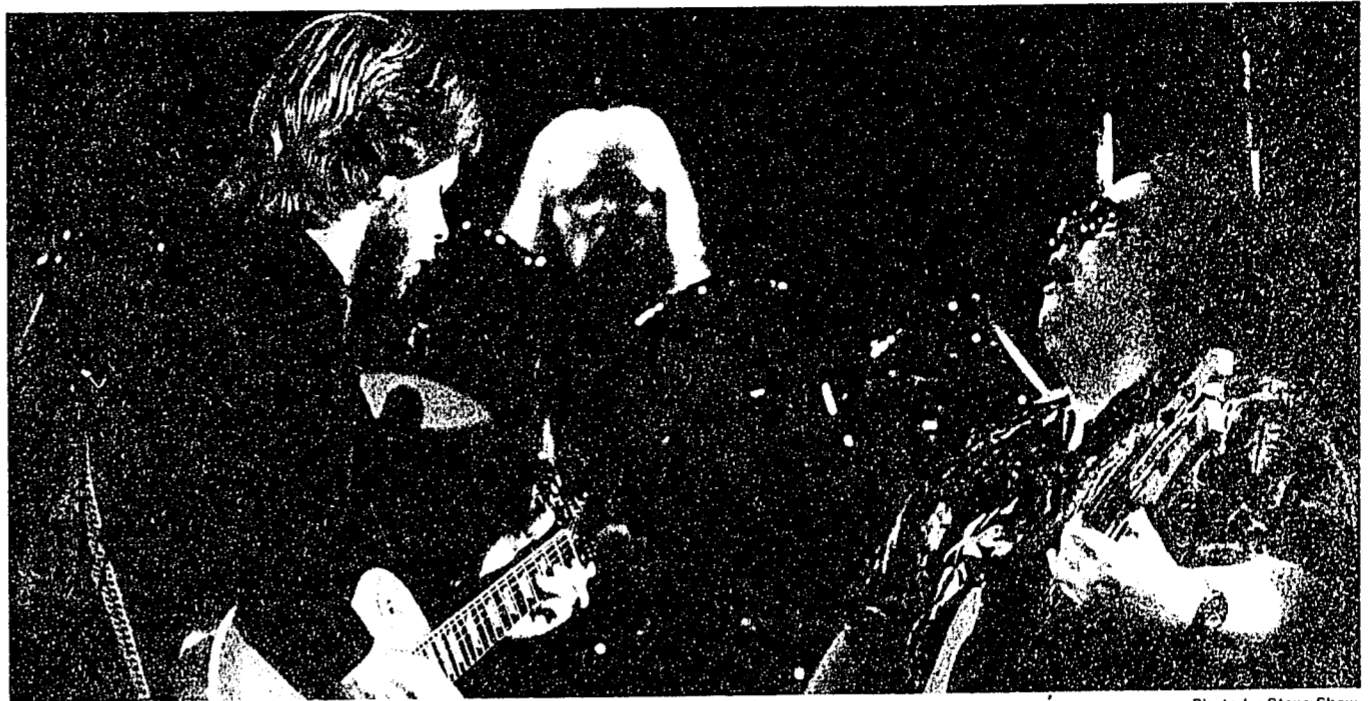
officials at the British administrative headquarters at Stormont Castle. Government sources said the officials were studying undisclosed recommendations for changes in prison regulations proposed by an International Red Cross delegation that attempted to mediate an end to the hunger strike in July.

Ten Irish nationalists, most of them members of the outlawed Irish Republican Army, starved themselves to death at Belfast's Maze prison during the seven-month protest that ended Saturday when the six remaining strikers ended their fasts.

The Rev. Denis Faul, a Catholic priest who played a significant role in ending the fasts, visited five of the six former hunger strikers at the Maze and said he found them "relaxed."

One of the inmates remained in a hospital, but all six were reported in satisfactory condition by Britain's Northern Ireland Office.

"A certain air of tension has disappeared," said Father Faul, an assistant chaplain at the prison.



Rhythm

The Atlanta Rhythm Section — (from left) Barry Bailey, Roy Yeager and Paul Goddard — performed its distinctive brand of music Saturday night at Rec Hall. Please see story, Page 16.

Poll: U.S. divided over AWACS sale

By TIMOTHY HARPER
 Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Americans are sharply divided over the Reagan administration's proposed sale of AWACS planes to Saudi Arabia, according to the latest Associated Press-NBC News poll.

The telephone poll of 1,601 adults contacted in a scientific random sampling Sept. 28-29 also said Americans are split over whether the AWACS sale would increase the chances of war in the Middle East or mean the United States would have to increase its military aid to Israel.

The Reagan administration's proposed \$8.5 billion sale includes five Boeing 707 jets equipped with special early warning radar systems which could allow the Saudis to spot approaching aircraft from as far as 350 miles away.

The president has said the sale would help ensure peace and defend the valuable Saudi oil fields, but senators who oppose the sale say they have more than enough votes to block it.

Forty percent of the respondents in the latest poll said they oppose the sale, with 25

percent in favor and 35 percent not sure. That indicates a slight shift of public opinion for the sale since the May AP-NBC News poll showed 54 percent opposed, 19 percent in favor and 27 percent unsure about the sale.

Among those who had an opinion about the sale, 46 percent said they think selling the AWACS to Saudi Arabia will increase the chances of war in the Middle East. Fifteen percent said the sale would decrease the chances of war in the Middle East, 35 percent said the sale would make no difference and 4 percent were not sure.

By 47-42 percent, respondents said the AWACS sale would mean the United States will have to increase its military aid to Israel.

Among all respondents, 43 percent said the United States should not sell arms or military equipment to any foreign country.

On the question of the AWACS sale, people who opposed the sale said it would increase the chances of war and require more military aid to Israel, while respondents who favored the sale said it would decrease the chances of war and would not mean more American arms aid to Israel.

Men were about evenly divided on the AWACS sale, but women were 3-1 against it. A majority of women said the sale would increase the chances of war in the Middle East and mean more U.S. military aid to Israel, while a majority of men said the AWACS sale would decrease the chances of war and would not boost American arms aid to Israel.

Among religious groups, Jews overwhelmingly opposed the sale and said it would increase the chances of war and mean more American military aid to Israel.

As with all sample surveys, the results of AP-NBC News polls can vary from the opinions of all Americans because of chance variations in the sample.

For a poll based on about 1,600 interviews, the results are subject to an error margin of 3 percentage points either way because of chance variations. That is, if one could have talked this past week to all Americans with telephones, there is only 1 chance in 20 that the findings would vary by more than 3 percentage points.

Please see related stories, Page 8.

Task force to aid grads with income tax problems

By ELLYN HARLEY
 Daily Collegian Staff Writer

Graduate students will soon have relief from a taxing problem.

That relief will be provided by a newly formed task force to study and propose solutions to the tax problems of graduate students.

The task force will include a representative of the Graduate Student Association, said Suzanne Hausheer Babich, chairwoman of the GSA tax committee.

Graduate School Dean James B. Bartoo, who made the decision to create the official task force, will probably be the chairman, Babich said. Other members of the task force have yet to be chosen.

"We finally have the (tax) issue to the officials; it's no longer a group of graduate students jumping up and down," Babich said. "We really feel like there's quite a victory in this development."

The task force will concentrate on problems created by inconsistencies within individual departments of standards for required teaching. Also, it will try to remedy problems with form letters sent to the Internal Revenue Service in which a professor attests that a student is qualified to receive a tax refund, Babich said.

"Departments have to stop writing letters for students who are not qualified for tax refunds and make sure they write letters for students who are qualified (for tax refunds)," she said.

Babich said, however, that it is important to realize most students are liable for federal, state and local taxes. Many graduate students mistakenly believe that the form letters are documents entitling them to tax refunds, she said.

"Students better shape up and stop thinking the letters work — students who have been audited are not winning," Babich said.

Students must receive a ruling from the IRS to be exempt from paying taxes; however, it is important to make sure graduate students who receive tax-exempt scholarships, fellowships and grants are not taxed, she said.

Another problem for some students is misunderstanding the Social Security tax system.

Students who receive refunds from the IRS may assume they do not have to pay Federal Insurance Contributions Act taxes. But, the two taxes are completely separate, University Controller Steve A. Garban said.

"We've said in the past that for a scholarship or fellowship, neither social security or income taxes apply," he said.

"Social Security is a separate item but it often gets blended into the other problems of

graduate students getting income tax refunds," he added. "The IRS and Social Security are different."

"Rules for one do not apply to the other. There is no refund of Social Security wages or compensation."

David Herbert, the Executive Director of Social Security in Harrisburg, said students receiving rulings from the IRS excluding them from taxation are definitely not required to pay the FICA tax.

However, he added, "Any graduate student paid a stipend and providing service to the University is subject to federal, state and local taxes."

Garban said graduate students are required to pay FICA in accordance with a 1956 agreement between the state and the federal government that public employees are included in the social security system.

"We're part of the state system and the state has agreed with the federal government that students are covered (under FICA)," he said. "There are universities where students are not covered by social security and there are other universities like us, involved in a state program."

"We're looking into whether, one, if we want to exclude students from coverage, and two, if it's possible to remove students from the agreement. We don't have the answers yet," Garban said.

Graduate students at the University should know the social security coverage entitles them to benefits if they become disabled, he said.

"Those benefits are not usually thought about by younger people," he said.

Garban stressed that tax issues can be very complicated and take time to unravel.

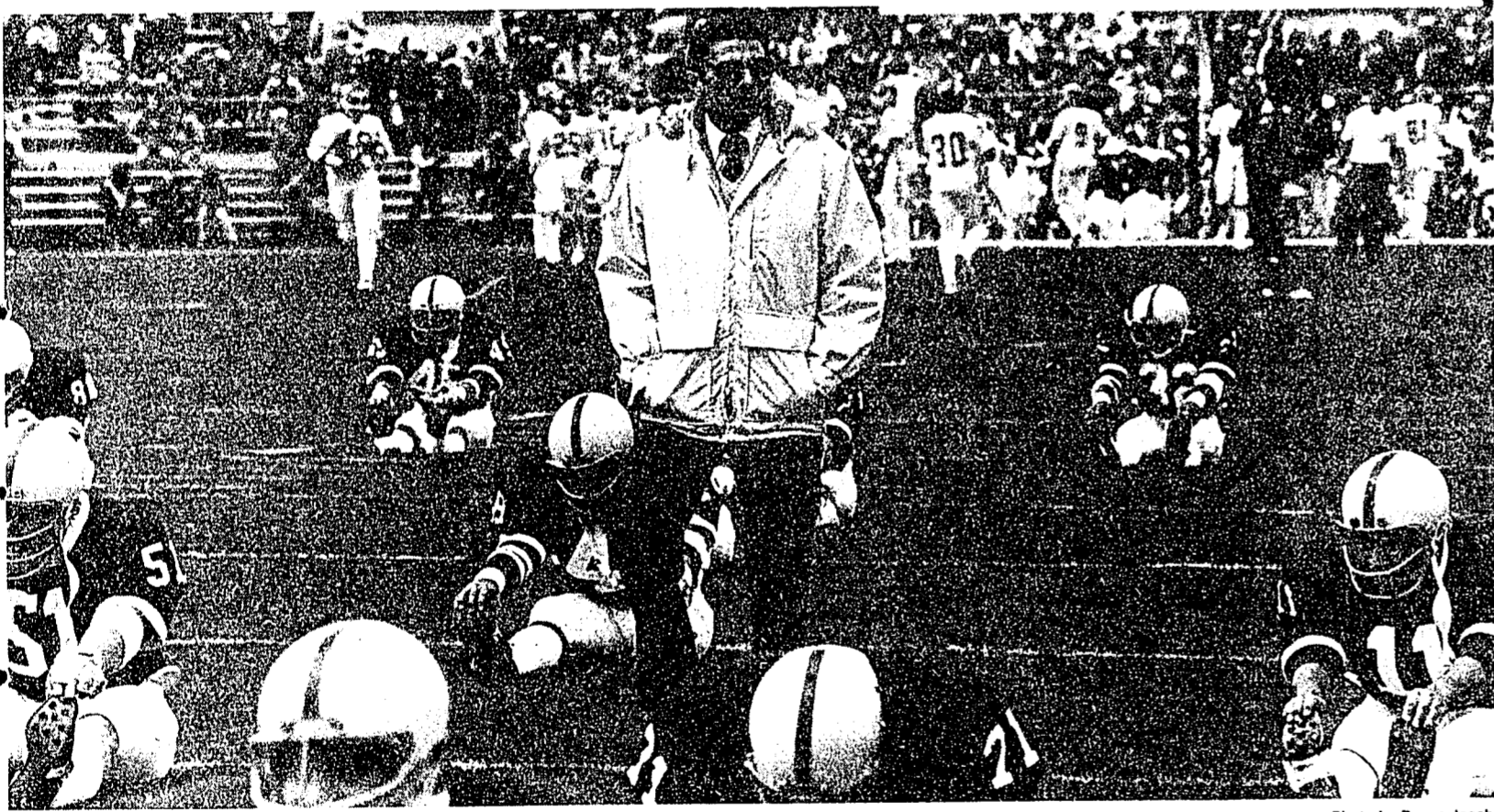
"Our investigation of this (the tax issue) is not an overnight thing," Garban said. "Our conclusions are based on research and legal advice."

Although only about 20 students at the University may be entitled to Social Security exemptions, Babich said, their total exemptions are a substantial sum. For example, she said the 6.5 percent FICA deduction from a \$3,700 yearly salary would amount to about \$250.

"That's worth bothering about," she said. "Even if it's only 20 students, that's \$250 times 20, and that's a lot of money."

A new graduate student handbook scheduled to be issued this month will include an article about information graduate students should be aware of in relation to all tax liabilities, Babich said.

The controller's office is willing to help in the publication of the handbook, Garban said.



Contemplating victory

Nittany Lion coach Joe Paterno watches his team warm up at Beaver Stadium before the start of the Penn State-Temple game on Saturday. Penn State went on to win its third game of the season, 30-0. Please see stories and photos, Page 10.

inside

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weather

We'll be in a warming trend for the first part of this week. Intervals of clouds and sunshine today with high temperatures near 69. Thickening cloudiness and cool tonight with low temperatures around 52. Variable cloudiness and warm tomorrow with a few showers. Highs will be in the low 70s.

Health Expo pools resources, Wirag says

Editor's Note: Dr. J. Robert Wirag, director of the Office of Health Promotion and Education in the University's Department of Health Services, is also the director of Health Expo '81. Daily Collegian Staff Writer Brian Bowers interviewed Wirag yesterday, and the following has been edited for length and clarity. (Please see related stories, Page 6.)

COLLEGIAN: Was there anything that really sparked the idea of having a Health Expo?

WIRAG: A couple of us recognized the tremendous wealth of resources we have in this community, not only in the University but also in the adjacent communities.

We took a look at a time of the year when it would be good to pool all those resources together and say to the Penn State Students, "This is what is available to you whether you are a graduate or undergraduate student." And some of the faculty and staff need to be informed periodically of what the resources are, where they are and how to use them.

It certainly seemed logical to do this sort of a

program in the fall. Students, after the program is put together, can learn from it and take advantage of all the resources that are here the rest of the year.

We used to do this sort of thing in the spring, which is pretty much after the fact. It is really a good time, being the first three days of Homecoming Week. It kind of kicks off Homecoming.

interview

COLLEGIAN: What exactly is your role in the Health Expo?

WIRAG: I have been working as the director. Fortunately, I have had some pretty outstanding people to work with and I certainly want to recognize the fine job done by Larry Atwell, who is the Health Expo coordinator. Larry and I worked together — it was a real cooperative

effort. He did a lot of the leg work to get the various parts of the program put together.

COLLEGIAN: Who originally came up with the idea for having a Health Expo?

WIRAG: (Undergraduate Student Government President) Bill Cluck and I, one afternoon this summer, were doing some brainstorming, just to see how USG and University Health Services could get involved in some cooperative program. The outcome of that brainstorming was the idea of putting Health Expo '81 together. From that point, we just made a commitment to do it.

One thing led to another and soon after that Bill Cluck put me in touch with Larry Atwell. I recognized very early the competency of Larry Atwell. With his tremendous amount of energy and interest in representing USG, I thought we had a pretty decent marriage of interest. Then we just proceeded one step at a time and we, frankly, organized as we went along.

COLLEGIAN: Why was "wellness" chosen as the theme for the Health Expo?

WIRAG: It has a positive air about it. There is

kind of wellness movement taking place nationwide right now.

More people are looking to the positive aspects of health and well-being. The term "wellness" has been coined fairly recently. It has a positive flair about it. Also, Dr. William Lettler, who is our keynote speaker, has been one of the fore-runners in promoting the wellness concept.

COLLEGIAN: There seem to be many sex, birth control and abortion related topics on the schedule. What are the reasons for some of these different topics being chosen?

WIRAG: We wanted to plan an event that would be of interest to all people, not just the people from University Park but people in the surrounding communities.

So we picked and chose topics that would be of interest to a wide range of people. Now, it just so happens that those you just mentioned are of great interest to college students.

Some of the topics have very little interest for students, but they are very appropriate for other interests.

Please see HEALTH EXPO, Page 5.