

Supreme Court rules on TMI restart

Mental harm need not be considered

By JAMES H. RUBIN
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The government can allow Pennsylvania's Three Mile Island nuclear power plant to reopen without first weighing whether that would mentally injure nearby residents fearful of a recurring accident, the Supreme Court ruled yesterday.

In a 9-0 decision, the court said potential psychological harm to individuals is not addressed by a federal law requiring the government to examine environmental questions when it licenses nuclear reactors. "We think the context of the statute shows that Congress was talking about the physical environment — the world around us, so to speak," said Justice William H. Rehnquist. "If a harm does not have a sufficiently close connection to the physical environment (the law) does not apply."

The ruling means that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission may permit the undamaged Unit 1 reactor at the Middletown, Dauphin County, plant to resume operations without considering the possibly anxiety it could cause in the community. The adjacent Unit 2 reactor was damaged

on March 28, 1979, in the nation's worst commercial nuclear accident. Repair of Unit 2 is continuing, with no restart date likely in the near future.

The court overruled a 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals finding that psychological factors should be considered before the undamaged reactor is restarted.

Thousands of residents were evacuated from their homes after the reactor at Three Mile Island on the Susquehanna River malfunctioned and radiation leaked into the atmosphere.

Unit 1 had been shut down for refueling at the time and was not damaged. But the NRC has not approved its reopening pending completion of the \$1 billion clean-up at the plant.

Rehnquist, in his opinion for the court, said

it would be asking too much of government agencies to decide which claims that psychological health may suffer from government decisions are legitimate.

"It would be extraordinarily difficult for agencies to differentiate between 'genuine' claims of psychological health damage and claims that are grounded solely in disagreement with a democratically adopted policy," he said.

Without a new law that specifically orders such investigations, he added, "we do not think agencies are obliged to undertake the inquiry."

In Harrisburg, opponents of the plant expressed dismay at the decision. "National and government officials don't recognize that a nuclear accident is a different type of calamity and crisis. They're lumping it with

fires and floods," said Kay Pickering of Three Mile Island Alert, a citizens' group opposed to the restart.

A nuclear accident "is unique. You can't smell it, feel it; it's an unknown in this world of technology," she said. "The stress and the fear is always with you... A fire siren or sudden illness brings on thoughts — could this be caused by the accident? Is it possible there has been another accident?"

And Francine Taylor of Susquehanna Valley Alliance, a coalition of citizens concerned about nuclear safety, said "I am chagrined and shocked that the Supreme Court, without input from the people, that they could just come to that decision..." She said the court simply accepted the utility operator's position about the start-up.



A guard at Western Penitentiary in Pittsburgh stands outside the prison. Two armed convicts ended a six-day siege in a windowless room in the building's basement yesterday when they released their hostages and surrendered to authorities.

Pittsburgh hostages released

Convicts surrender after 6-day siege in prison

By LILLIAN SWANSON
Associated Press Writer

PITTSBURGH — Two armed convicts freed two hostages and surrendered yesterday, ending a six-day siege in a windowless basement prison room that started when an escape attempt went awry.

"It's over," prison spokesman Ken Robinson announced midafternoon, after both prisoners had given their guns to negotiators and both hostages were out of danger.

The first to be freed was hostage Kostas "Gus" Mastros, 51, a prison records supervisor. He walked out of the room where he had been held hostage with guard Daniel Kohut, 39, at 10:38 a.m. and asked for a cigarette. He was given two packs and a plate of food.

News of Mastros' safe release prompted cheers from many of the 1,300 inmates at the State Correctional Institution who had been kept locked in their cells during the drama.

Inmate Louis Coviello, 26, a convicted murderer, surrendered about 4½ hours later. After giving up his gun, he telephoned back into the room and told inmate Richard Henkel he was unharmed, said Robinson.

Henkel, a convicted bank robber to be tried this week for murder, then talked to the prison officials and gave himself up. He walked out the door behind Kohut with a gun in his hand, Robinson said.

"At 3:33 p.m., the door opened. Danny Kohut came out of the door first, followed by Henkel, who surrendered the weapon that he had," said Robinson.

Both inmates, who pulled guns Thursday morning as they were being strip-searched prior to a court hearing, were taken from the prison in an unmarked police car to a federal prison in Lewisburg, Union County, said Warden George Petsock.

"We didn't promise the inmates anything. We gave them nothing. We signed no agreement,"

said Petsock, adding the inmates were moved to avoid reprisals at the Pittsburgh prison.

"If you caused inmates to be locked up for six days and two staff members to be abused mentally, then you're going to face a lot of animosity," he said.

Henkel held a bag up to his face as a police motorcade passed reporters keeping a vigil outside the 101-year-old prison on the city's north side. The inmates, both unshaven, wore mustard-yellow prison garb.

Dr. Dietrich Jehle, who examined Mastros, said the former hostage felt "thankful for his life. He said he had a gun pointed at his head eight times a day. His hands were tied behind his back and he was in a corner most of the time."

Kohut refused medical treatment, opting to go home, Petsock said.

At 12:30 p.m. after Mastros had been released, negotiators heard a muffled shot from the room, but Kohut came to the door and yelled out that he was unhurt. The bullet went into a wall.

Northeastern Pa. hit with winterlike storm

By The Associated Press

An unusual winterlike storm dumped as much as 3 inches of snow on parts of northeastern Pennsylvania and put the west in a record deep freeze yesterday, the National Weather Service said.

In Philadelphia, a forecaster with the weather service said yesterday's inch of snow was the largest recorded this late in the season.

In Eagles Mere, Sullivan County, the weather service reported 6½ inches of snow on the ground, some of it left over from a snowfall the previous night.

Scranton had 3 inches but it melted almost as quickly as it fell, according to an employee at the Wilkes-Barre Scranton International Airport.

In western Pennsylvania, the temperature at the Greater Pittsburgh Airport shortly before 6 a.m. yesterday dropped to 19 degrees — a record low for the date and the lowest temperature ever recorded in Pittsburgh this late in the spring.

Senate considers tax compromise

By JIM LUTHER
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Senate Republicans, badly divided over President Reagan's plan to withhold taxes from interest and dividends, appeared united last night behind a compromise that would delay the provision at least four years and possibly forever.

There was no indication whether Reagan would agree to the compromise. He has vowed to veto any bill that repeals withholding.

The fallback agreement won the support of: Sen. Bob Kasten, R-Wis., leader of the battle for repeal; Sen. Robert J. Dole, R-Kan., chief Senate backer of withholding; and Republican Leader Howard Baker.

"Very honestly, we didn't have the votes" to block repeal, Dole told the Senate.

The Senate could take a final vote on the compromise today. Or, several senators conceded, the agreement could fall apart before it came to a vote.

For the moment, however, the compromise appeared to be Republicans' way out of an unpopular battle that threatened party unity in the GOP-controlled Senate. But there still was no assurance withholding will be repealed — House leaders still support it.

As to Reagan's reaction to the proposal, Kasten said: "I don't think the president is going to have a lot of choice" on accepting it.

Reagan's allies, sensing defeat, had delayed for several hours a scheduled test vote on the withholding issue. When the vote finally came, on Kasten's motion to limit debate on the question, it was after the compromise was announced and the vote had become meaningless.

The motion failed, 53-34, or 26 short of the 60 votes required to limit debate.

According to Kasten, the new plan would delay the start of withholding, now scheduled for July 1, until July 1987 at the earliest. In the meantime, penalties would be raised on people who are found to cheat on the taxes on their interest and dividends, and reporting requirements for such income would be stiffened.

The General Accounting Office would report to Congress by January 1987 on how taxpayers are complying with laws requiring them to pay taxes on their interest and dividends. If the compliance rate, now about 85 percent, were increased to 95 percent or better by that time, there would be no withholding. If not, withholding could be imposed by a vote in the House and Senate.

Overqualification a problem for grads

Editor's Note: This is the last in a three-part series examining job prospects for this year's graduating class.

By MARK FEATHERSTONE
Collegian Staff Writer

With the job placement rate for the Class of '83 expected to drop to one of the lowest levels in recent years, many students are faced with choosing between unemployment or working at a job for which they are overqualified.

Therefore, many students are approaching graduation with feelings of increased anxiety, rather than hope, said Louise Sandmeyer, a counselor at the Career Development and Placement Center.

"Graduation is always a scary time," she said, "but graduating and not knowing what to do — or not being able to do what you want to do — is even more difficult."

WHAT'S AHEAD FOR THE CLASS OF '83?

Sandmeyer described the general attitude of this year's class as "cautious and concerned. She said if they have jobs, they're probably feeling pretty relieved and if they don't, they probably are feeling pretty anxious as they approach graduation.

"If they get one offer, they're probably going to take it. They're less likely to wait for the 'big offer' because they know the way the job market is," she said.

In addition, more students are discussing delaying their entry into the job market until their prospects improve, she said. Also, more students are considering military enlistment or

graduate school than in recent years.

The number of applicants to the University's Graduate School has increased this year, with more than 4,300 students applying for admission compared to 3,988 at the same time last year.

The increase in applications was fairly widespread throughout the colleges. The number of students applying for the College of Business Administration increased from 441 as of April 1982 to 497 as of April 1983; for the College of Engineering, from 489 to 656; for the College of Science, from 551 to 590; and from 748 to 804 in the College of The Liberal Arts.

To help students cope with the prospect of graduating without a future job, Sandmeyer said, the Career Development and Placement Center established a group called "Graduation: Coping with an Uncertain Future" — established because of "a feeling that

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weather

Mostly cloudy and cold today with a chance of snow flurries and a high of 40. Partial clearing tonight with a low of 27. Partly sunny and pleasant tomorrow with a high of 50.
—by Craig Wagner