

Extended VDT radiation study urged

UNEXPLAINED ABNORMALITIES CITED

Washington — Congress should fund a long-term study of video-display-terminal operators to try to determine conclusively if they are developing cataracts or other radiation-associated health damage in significantly greater numbers than other office employees, TNG President Charles A. Perlik, Jr., declared May 12.

Repeated assurances to the contrary by government agencies

and industry notwithstanding, the Guild and many of its members are not fully convinced of the absence of health hazards in the low levels of radiation emitted by the machines, Perlik told a subcommittee of the House Science and Technology Committee.

Too many newspaper employ-

ees have experienced so-far-unexplained biological abnormalities after beginning to work on the machines, Perlik said. He was the lead-off witness in two-day hearings by the Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight into possible hazards from radiation emissions from VDTs and radio-

frequency heaters and scalars.

Other witnesses on VDTs included representatives of the Defense Dept., VDT manufacturers, the Bureau of Radiological Health and the American Newspaper Publishers' Assn.—who repeated earlier assurances that the machines pose no determinable radi-

ation hazard under existing standards—plus representatives of the AFL-CIO's Industrial Union Dept. and Dr. Milton Zaret, a researcher whose studies on cataracts and radiation have been controversial—who also called for more study of VDTs and radiation.

Perlik called for "a shift in the focus" on the question of radiation emissions from VDTs.

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TNG PRESIDENT CHARLES A. PERLIK, JR., PREPARES TO DELIVER TESTIMONY AS . . .
With Perlik, at left, is David J. Eisen, TNG director of Research & Information.



. . . U.S. REP ALBERT GORE, JR., OPENS VDT HEARINGS
With Gore is Ian Marceau, subcommittee technical advisor.

Hill parley to learn of threats to free press, worker safety

Washington — A joint legislative-political conference sponsored by TNG, the International Typographical Union and the Graphic Arts International Union will hear from authorities in their fields about legislative threats to press freedoms, social programs and health and safety regulations and how to rally support to counter them.

The conference will begin June 8.

Jack Landau of the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press will be one of the participants on a panel

that will explore proposed legislative threats to freedom of the press.

Bert Seidman, the director of the AFL-CIO's Department of Social Security, will speak to conference participants about the holes in the Reagan "safety net," examining administration proposals to weaken the Social Security and food stamp programs, among others.

Eula Bingham, the assistant secretary of labor for occupational safety and health in the Carter administration, and Sheldon Samuels, the occupa-

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News tops raised by up to \$116, to \$656, in 2-year pact at CBC

Toronto—A new two-year Canadian Wire Service Guild contract with the Canadian Broadcasting Corp. raises top minimums for reporters by as much as \$116.44 a week and upgrades one group of editors by increasing their top minimum by \$204.79, to \$745.13 a week, over the contract's term.

The upgrading for the national assignment, national lineup, and senior program editors, plus the Ottawa Bureau Chief, raises their top minimum up by \$133.99 retroactive to Dec. 1, with another \$70.80 increase to come on Nov. 31.

The \$116.44 increase for na-

tional affairs reporters and reporter-specialists puts their top minimum at \$656.78 a week. The raise comes in increments of \$54.05 and \$62.39 on the same dates. Starting minimum for the group is raised by \$114.03, to \$643.12 a week.

The service required for a fourth week of vacation is reduced to eight years, from 10.

The company agreed to ensure that video display terminals are properly maintained and regularly inspected and to make the results of monitoring and inspections available to the Guild.

A ban on dismissals or reductions in pay resulting from

the introduction of new or modified equipment or consequential changes in operation is added.

Noise is added to the environmental standards the company agrees to heed. Provision is added guaranteeing that an employee will not be required to accept an assignment involving risks abnormal to the profession and recognizing an employee's right to express concern about assignments the employee believes involve abnormal risks.

A flat mileage rate of 20 cents is changed to a rate that fluctuates by region. The new rate ranges from 28 cents a mile, or 18 cents per kilometer, in Newfoundland, the Yukon and the Northwest Territories, to 24.5 cents per mile, or 15 cents per kilometer, in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta. The mileage rate in Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and British Columbia is 26 cents, or 16 cents per kilometer.

Additional insurance covering an employee assigned to war-risk areas is increased from \$75,000, to \$225,000, and extended to include employees on special hazardous assignments as well.

A committee is established to discuss matters of mutual interest, such as news-programming policies and standards, directions and aims of the news service, profes-

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3 more seek IEB seats; 2 at-large, 1 in Midwest

Announcements by three more nonincumbents that they will seek TNG vice presidencies have set up prospective contests for the six at-large seats and for at least two of the seven regional seats on TNG's International Executive Board in this summer's regular biennial TNG elections.

✓ Richard M. Peery, former president and long-time leader of the Cleveland Guild, has announced that he is challenging TNG Vice President John B. Mitchell of Gary, who is seeking a second term from Region 3, the Midwest. Mitchell defeated Peery by 155 votes for the seat in

TNG's elections two years ago.

✓ Richard J. Roth, immediate past president of the Buffalo Guild, and Dianne M. Martino, treasurer of the Manchester Guild and president of the New England District Council, have announced that they will seek election as TNG vice presidents at large, bringing to eight the number of candidates for those six seats.

Earlier, incumbent At-large Vice Presidents William T. Davis of San Jose, Robert C. Holt, Jr., of St. Louis, David M. Mulcahy of New York, Floyd Tucker of San Francisco-Oakland and Joyce

Walker-Tyson of Detroit had announced that they will seek reelection and nonincumbent R. Emmett Murray of the Pacific Northwest Guild said he is a candidate for an at-large seat [Guild Reporter, May 8].

TNG Vice President Carla W. Beck of Great Falls is being challenged for election to a third term from TNG's Region 4, the U.S. West, by Anna M. Padia, also of the Pacific Northwest Guild. [Guild Reporter, May 8.]

Peery announced his candidacy for the Region 3 seat during the joint meeting of the Great Lakes, Midwest and Southern District

Councils in Denver May 9-10.

Peery, a member of the Cleveland Guild's executive board since 1972, was the local's president in 1979.

A reporter at the Cleveland Plain Dealer and a founding member of the Black Leadership Caucus of Cleveland, he chaired the Rules Committee at TNG's 1980 Convention.

Roth's candidacy was also announced at the tri-council meeting in Denver. A reporter for the Buffalo Courier-Express, he served four consecutive terms as Buffalo Guild president, through Decem-

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Perlik urges Congress to fund long-term VDT radiation study

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"We think it is essential to find out what scientific method can tell us about the effects of possible radiation from VDTs on the health of the people who operate them," Perlik said, continuing:

"Attention has been concentrated for too long exclusively on the presence or absence of radiation in relation, particularly in the case of radio-frequency radiation, to standards that are subject to revision and dispute and to health effects whose nature and range are far from being fully explored.

"It is commonly said that radio-frequency radiation in the 15-to-125-kilohertz frequency range characteristic of VDTs has no known biological effects, but" a recent report by the Bureau of Radiological Health "states the matter a bit more pointedly, to wit: 'Research information in bio-effects for the frequency range 15 kilohertz to 125 kilohertz is lacking, so empirical estimates of injury are not possible.'

"The report goes on to state that, since radiation in this frequency area interacts only slightly with the human body, significant biological effects are unlikely," Perlik said.

"However," he pointed out, "biological effects have been discovered in recent years at both frequencies and power densities lower than previously believed likely, including frequencies below 15 kilohertz.

"Laboratory research would seem to be in order to determine whether there are indeed biological effects from radiation in the VDT frequency range and, if so, whether... those effects are harmful."

Guild members, Perlik pointed out, were "perhaps the first sizeable group... to be confronted with VDTs—a decade ago." The ANPA estimates there now are 28,000 of the machines in U.S. newspaper plants.

Initially, he said, there was concern among Guild members

about X-rays, since their emission had shortly before been discovered in color television sets—"VDTs' lineal ancestors."

Five years ago, when two Guild members at the New York Times developed cataracts after going to work on the machines, it "awoke us to the possibility" of hazards from nonionizing radiation, Perlik said.

While subsequent testing led an arbiter to conclude that the machines "do not pose any ocular radiant-energy hazard... based on reasonable standards of industrial safety," the cause of the pair's cataracts "remains a mystery to this day," Perlik noted.

Eight similar cases—five in the past year—have since been reported to the Guild, Perlik pointed out. The most recent, he said, was "a 25-year-old wire-service employee, again without diabetes or any family history of early cataracts."

TNG regards the ten cataract cases as "a minimum figure" since "there undoubtedly are more" not reported to the Guild. Even so, he said, "we have been advised by an occupational health expert that in relation to a membership of perhaps 10,000 working on VDTs for at least six months, even ten reported over a short period is an unusually high ratio of unexplained cases."

He also reviewed the radiation testing that followed disclosure last summer that four women working on VDTs at the Toronto Star had given birth within a month to babies with birth defects.

The Ontario Ministry of Labour reported "dose rates far below the levels at which one would expect either X-rays or microwave/radiofrequency radiation to produce birth defects," he pointed out. Tests for other possible causes by the Star have been "slow getting under way," he noted.

"What is needed," Perlik concluded, "is a fullfledged govern-

ment-funded study, unhampered by financial limitations, of a large population of VDT users and appropriate controls over a period of time, to determine whether VDT operators are developing cataracts or other health damage attributable to radiation—or any other cause—in numbers significantly higher than other office employees."

He called upon the committee to seek such a study—either conducted or funded by the National Institute for Occupational Safety & Health—and to "do what it can to make sure that NIOSH, currently being put on a starvation budget, gets the funds" to conduct all the research needed to assure protection of U.S. workers from occupational hazards.

George R. Cashau, co-ordinator of operations for the ANPA's Research Institute, subsequently told the subcommittee in answer to a question that he felt that the ANPA would favor an investigation concentrating on the low levels of radiation emitted by VDTs if they are suspect.

In his prepared testimony he reviewed several reports from VDT radiation tests and said that the ANPA is "confident" that newspaper employees using VDTs are "free of risk from radiation in any form."



DIANE EICHER/Denver Guild

Tri-council session in Denver

Patti Barth of Denver, left, Bruce Nelson of Twin Cities and delegates from several other locals, background, exchange information during joint meeting of Great Lakes, Midwest and Southern District Councils in Denver May 9-10. Delegates also heard reports from TNG President Charles A. Perlik, Jr., Secretary-Treasurer Charles Dale, International Chairperson Harry S. Culver and Vice Presidents Robert C. Holt, Jr., David M. Mulcahy, Carlos J. Sutton and Joyce Walker-Tyson.

Maine House puts aside VDT bill

Augusta, Me. — The Maine House voted 89 to 47 May 18 to indefinitely postpone action on a VDT-safety bill introduced by Rep. Edith S. Beaulieu (D-Portland), a member of the Portland Guild.

The amended version of the bill that went to the floor of the House would have required employers to inform employees of hazards associated with working on video display terminals, including temporary or permanent deterioration of visual acuity, headache or burning eyes caused by flicker on terminal screens, musculoskeletal problems and changes in color perception. The employer would also have been required to inform employees about precautions that could minimize such hazards.

An employer could have complied with these requirements by

making available to VDT operators a copy of the New York Committee for Occupational Safety and Health's pamphlet "Health Protection for Operators of Video Display Terminals."

The bill, as amended, would also have required:

✓ Terminal maintenance twice yearly to assure clear display and proper functioning of display adjustments.

✓ Annual optometric or ophthalmological examinations for operators on company time and with the examination fee paid by the company or through insurance. The first examination would be required within 18 months of beginning to work regularly—for more than four hours per shift—on a VDT.

✓ A limit of eight hours "steady" work at a terminal in a day.

✓ Rest periods or performance of "appropriate alternative tasks" for at least 15 minutes after each two hours of VDT work.

All of the bill's provisions applied only to those VDT operators who for a minimum of six months had engaged in steady work on the terminals for more than four hours in a day.

The bill as originally drafted, among other things, also would have established lighting and glare standards for offices where VDTs are used and would have required that operators' chairs be adjustable.

It also would have established guidelines for placement of terminals and would have required that vision examinations be performed by an ophthalmologist, with the first within 30 days after being assigned VDT work.

Toronto board of health backs steps to ease VDT discomforts

Toronto—A report issued by the Toronto board of health recommends that employers, including government agencies, take steps to help ease the physical problems experienced by the growing number of employees who operate video display terminals.

Saying that there is no question that working at the machines can cause problems such as eyestrain, headaches, dizziness, neck and back soreness and fatigue, the city agency recommends that employers alleviate these problems by:

✓ Installing machines that are adjustable to the varying physical characteristics of operators.

✓ Conducting regular eye examinations to determine if any vision problems are developing.

✓ Permitting rest breaks of ten minutes every hour or 15-to-20 minutes every two hours.

✓ Controlling lights in areas where VDTs are used to eliminate glare on screens as much as possible.

✓ Requiring manufacturers to inspect machines on a regular basis.

The agency also recommends that provincial legislation be en-

acted modelled on Swedish law that requires employers to bargain with employees before introducing equipment like VDTs or making similar changes in the workplace.

The report also noted that "it is certain that there will continue to be controversy and concern" about radiation hazards from video display terminals "until it is proved to the satisfaction of VDT operators themselves that there is no chance of harmful radiation exposure."

UAW, AFL-CIO reunion is hailed

Washington—TNG's International Executive Board voted a "welcome back" to the United Auto Workers upon learning April 29 that UAW delegates to regional conventions had voted by 62 percent to authorize "the necessary steps" for the union's reaffiliation with the AFL-CIO.

With unions under increasing attack, the decision "will help the labor movement resist the assault with a unity it has been unable to muster for more than a decade," the IEB said.

The 1.2-million member UAW, which played a major role in the formation of the AFL-CIO in 1955, left the federation in 1968.

The reaffiliation could be completed as early as June, when its board is scheduled to meet.

CBC reporter top up by as much as \$116

(Continued from Page 1) sional ethics, status of journalism and the introduction and operation of new equipment.

The company is to release up to five employees with pay to attend meetings of the committee. Provision for committees to

identify training and professional development needs of employees and make recommendations about programs to meet these needs is also added.

Other increases and resulting new top minimums include:

National reporters, parliamen-

Blatz recuperating

Falls Church, Va.—J. William Blatz, TNG's director of field operations, returned to his suburban Washington home here May 17 from nearby Fairfax Hospital where he underwent arterial bypass surgery nine days before. He was hospitalized with a coronary attack April 19.

International Representative Fred W. S. Jones continues on temporary assignment at TNG headquarters to perform some of Blatz' duties during his recuperation.

tary reporters, assistant national assignment editors — Up by \$111.76 a week, to \$630.38, in increments of \$51.86 and \$59.90. Their starting minimum is raised a total of \$107.16, to \$604.44 a week.

Reporter/editors, national writers, production editors—Up by \$104.31 a week, to \$560.15, in increments of \$51.08 and \$53.23. Their starting minimum is raised by \$70.96, to \$400.23 a week.

Copy clerks—Up by \$44.68 a week, to \$251.95, in increments of \$20.74 and \$23.94.

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ANONYMOUS BUT REAL

1980 a bonanza
for big E&P daily

Last year was a bonanza—in profits, profit-margin and revenues—for the anonymous big-city daily whose performance Editor & Publisher magazine has been reporting for 21 years.

Before-tax profits of the 260,000-circulation morning-evening-Sunday combination were up a record 49 percent in 1980, to \$12.3 million. Highest previous one-year profits gain was 32.7 percent, in 1977 [see table below].

The before-tax profit-to-revenue margin was 28.1 percent in 1980, compared to 22 percent in 1979 and 23.7 percent in 1972, its previous high-margin year.

(Profit as a percent of sales for all U.S. manufacturing industries in 1980 averaged 7.7 percent before taxes and 4.85 percent after taxes, according to Federal Trade Commission data.)

Total revenue was up by 16.5 percent in 1980, to \$43.8 million.

Advertising income was up 5.6 percent, to \$31.3 million, and accounted for 71.5 percent of all income in 1980, compared to 78.8 percent in 1979.

Circulation income was up 57.5 percent, to \$12.3 million, due to increases in prices to subscribers. Circulation revenue accounted for 28 percent of the paper's income in 1980, compared to 20.7 percent in 1979.

Scott D. Timmerman, president of Newspaper Analysis Services of Cincinnati, who analyzed the paper for E&P, said the paper "all but eliminated" combination home-delivery rates and raised single copy prices for Sunday papers as well.

The increases were "accepted remarkably well," he said, "due to heavy promotion from both circulation and advertising departments."

By year's end, "average net paid circulation was only a few hundred copies below that of the previous year," Timmerman reported.

Retail advertising space was down by 4 percent from 1979 and classified was down by 15 percent, but both categories produced higher revenues, with the increase in retail 6.9 percent, to \$18.9 million, and that in classified 2.2 percent, to \$8.7 million.

National advertising was up in both space and revenue—2 percent and 13.2 percent respectively—showing "that national demand is rather inelastic to price," Timmerman said.

Although the total number of pages published in 1980 was down, total expenses were up 7.3 percent from 1979.

The heaviest expense items were newsprint and ink, accounting for 24.1 percent of the total operating expenses, although the \$10.15 million paid for newsprint was down slightly from \$10.24 million in 1979.

Total 1980 editorial expenses of \$3.5 million were up 6.6 percent from the year before and accounted for 8 percent of the paper's total expense.

Advertising expenses were up 6.9 percent, to \$2.2 million, and accounted for 4.9 percent of total expenses.

Circulation expenses, accounting for 10.8 percent of the total, were up 14.4 percent, to \$4.7 million.

Mechanical department expenses were up 1.9 percent, to \$3.6 million. They accounted for 8.2 percent of all expenses.

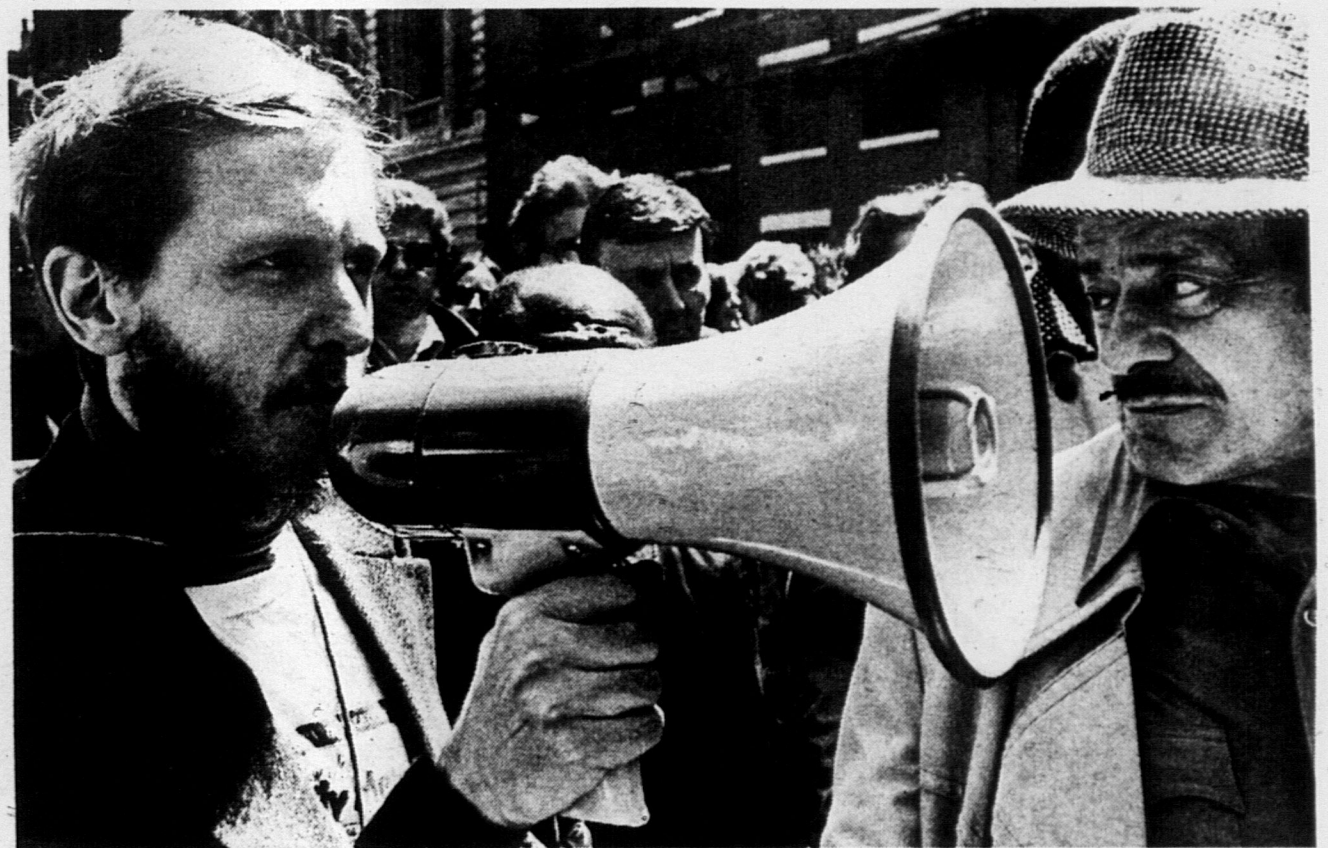
Expenses in the "executive office" rose by 8 percent, to \$513,098.

Increases in the average monthly salaries paid in departments where the Guild traditionally represents employees did not come close to matching the increases in profits and revenues. While Timmerman insists that all identifying characteristics of the paper must remain anonymous, he told the Guild Reporter that it is "not a Guild paper."

The average monthly salary in the editorial department rose 5 percent, to \$1,607.89, or \$371.05 a week. Total salaries paid in the editorial department increased by 6.3 percent, to \$2.5 million.

Retail advertising salaries dropped by 3.8 percent, to \$1,582.88 a month, or \$365.28 a week, on average. Total retail salaries were down by 5 percent, to \$479,614.

The average monthly salary for classified advertising employees was \$1,086.75, up 0.3 percent.



RUBY WASHINGTON/New York Guild

'How's that? ... Strike settlement, you say?'

Gordon Thompson, left, secretary of the New York Guild's Times unit, announces to Guild pickets the settlement that ended the Guild's May 7 strike at the paper after about 6½ hours [Guild Reporter, May 8]. Appearing to get the full force of Thompson's amplified voice, at right, is Frank Vario, a delegate to the local's representative assembly. Ratifica-

tion votes on the settlements at the Times and the Daily News were being planned for the week of May 24-30. Meanwhile, as the Guild continued to bargain with the New York Post, the Mailers', Paper Handlers' and Machinists' unions said they reached agreement May 15 with the Post on an economic package similar to that at the Times and News.

Support asked for rights effort

Washington — TNG's 1981 Convention is being asked to support an effort to identify the factors that have enabled some locals to make significant progress toward the Guild's human rights goals and at the same time pinpoint problems that have hindered other locals' efforts at eliminating biased employment practices.

In making the recommendation in the Human Rights section of its report to the convention, the International Executive Board said that while it "applauds" the progress that has been made "it also recognizes that there has been too little" overall.

TNG will undertake an appraisal of both the progress and the problems "with the hope that solutions can be found to overcome" the problems, the board noted.

To do this, however, the IEB said, TNG must have "the full co-operation of every Guild local in compiling the necessary data," and the 1981 Convention should

instruct locals to co-operate with TNG in constructing profiles of Guild-covered workforces "to determine the progress made" in the decade since TNG held its conferences on women and minorities.

The convention should call on all locals to supply TNG with information that includes the age, race, sex, national origin, job title and hiring date of covered employees, the IEB said.

Such detailed payroll information is "necessary to determine the extent and pattern of any discrimination," the IEB noted.

The IEB also urged the convention to call upon locals to intensify efforts to establish parity and equal pay for work of equal value for all employees in key classifications and to intensify efforts to obtain better increases for employees in clerical, business, maintenance, mechanical and delivery departments and to eliminate disparity, where it exists, for women and minorities.

Additionally the board urged the convention to recommend that:

✓ Locals make greater efforts to achieve and enforce fair-employment-practice clauses and

promotion provisions "that are the key to upward mobility for women and minorities."

✓ TNG and locals continue to support and use the Job/Scholarship Referral Service, published by Howard University for the Minorities and Communications Division of the Assn. for Education in Journalism.

✓ Locals and members associate themselves with other union organizations such as the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, the Coalition of Labor Union Women, the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement, the A. Philip Randolph Institute and the National Council for Senior Citizens.

✓ U.S. locals and members continue to work for ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment in states that have yet to ratify and guard against moves to rescind in states that have ratified.

✓ The pledge not to hold conventions or meetings in states that have not ratified the ERA be reaffirmed.

✓ TNG continue to distribute to locals resumes of minority job candidates and locals transmit the data to management and follow up to ensure that candidates are given serious consideration.

Pre-convention activities listed

Washington—A series of meetings will precede the opening of TNG's 48th Annual Convention June 29 in Memphis.

The Canadian Policy Conference will hold its annual meeting beginning Saturday, June 27, at 10 a.m. The conference is scheduled to meet in the Rivermont Club room of the convention hotel—the Rivermont-Holiday Inn—and will continue on Sunday, if necessary.

The traditional Freshman Forum—a briefing for first-time delegates to a Guild convention—will be held on Sunday, June 28, at 3 p.m. It is set to meet in the hotel's Gloucester Room and is expected to last about 45 minutes.

The Conference of District Councils will meet at noon on Sunday, June 28. The London

Room has been reserved for that gathering.

The pre-convention meeting of TNG's International Executive Board will begin on Friday, June 26 at 10 a.m. in "The Library" meeting room. The IEB will continue to meet into Sunday, if necessary.

Previous conventions have urged locals to prepare and submit resolutions in advance of the convention. Resolutions may be mailed to Secretary-Treasurer Charles Dale at TNG headquarters in Washington to arrive by no later than June 19. Otherwise, locals and delegates should bring resolutions to the convention where they can be submitted to Dale directly.

Resolutions should be in quadruplicate and signed.

Big daily's 21-year performance

Profits before taxes*

Year	Annually in \$	% of revenue**	% increase over prior year	% increase over 1960	Cumulative since 1960
1960	\$2,263,122	19.2			\$ 4,597,460
1961	2,334,338	19.6	3.1	3.1	7,211,542
1962	2,614,082	20.7	12.0	15.5	9,685,113
1963	2,473,571	19.1	-5.4	9.3	12,239,391
1964	2,554,278	19.3	3.3	12.9	14,966,329
1965	2,726,938	19.5	6.8	20.5	18,262,508
1966	3,296,197	22.0	20.9	45.6	21,922,319
1967	3,529,811	22.6	7.1	56.0	25,684,944
1968	3,692,625	22.4	4.6	63.2	30,086,426
1969	4,401,482	23.1	19.1	94.4	34,733,675
1970	4,647,249	23.5	7.2	105.3	39,773,319
1971	5,039,644	23.2	8.4	122.7	45,240,452
1972	5,467,133	23.7	8.5	141.6	50,278,817
1973	5,038,365	21.5	-7.8	122.6	55,992,191
1974	5,713,374	21.1	13.4	152.5	62,868,273
1975	6,876,082	21.8	20.4	203.8	68,398,406
1976	5,530,133	17.8	-19.6	144.3	75,738,868
1977	7,340,462	22.6	32.7	224.4	82,392,134
1978	6,653,266	20.7	-9.4	193.9	90,662,281
1979	8,270,147	22.0	24.3	265.4	102,987,701
1980	12,325,420	28.1	49.0	444.6	

* Profits after taxes not disclosed.

** Revenue rose from \$11,752,254 in 1960 to \$43,787,744 in 1980, an increase of 272.6 percent. Source: Editor & Publisher

U.S. probes complaint in N.Y. election

New York—The U.S. Labor Dept. has begun investigating a complaint by five candidates in last December's New York Guild elections that there were irregularities in the conduct of the closely contested election.

They said they went to the government when the local's elections committee took "no action" on protests two of them filed in January.

The two—Barry Lipton of the local's New York Times unit, who challenged Betsy Wade of the same unit for the local's presidency, and David M. Mulcahy of the Standard & Poor's unit, who ran for first vice president—on Jan. 21 had asked the committee to order a new election on grounds that some 20 violations of elections rules and other irregularities had occurred during and after the balloting [Guild Reporter, Feb. 13].

They were joined in a May 4 complaint to the Labor Dept. by Cesar Viruet of the El Diario unit, who ran for second vice president, Ralph Petrucelli of the Consumers Union unit, who ran for third vice president, and by Peter Jones of the Scholastic unit, who ran for the executive board.

James H. Orcutt, local secretary-treasurer, said the local has "pledged its total co-operation" with the Labor Dept. investigation.

Wade and 19 others ran as a "Membership Slate" in the Dec. 18-19 election while Lipton, Mulcahy, Viruet, Petrucelli, Jones and 15 others ran as a "Dues Reduction Party" for 20 seats on the local's executive committee. Both slates supported Edwin R. Egan for executive vice president and Orcutt.

Initially, certification of any winner of the election was stopped by a federal judge when Wade moved to enjoin any result that included the votes of members of the local's Radio Free Europe-



MIKE MULLEN/Times unit/Scranton Guild

For MAD Council service

Victor J. Alfano of Scranton, left, is presented with a gold Guild membership pin in appreciation of his serving two terms as president of the Middle Atlantic District Council of Guild locals during the council's spring meeting May 2-3. He declined nomination for a third term

at the council's winter meeting. Doing the presenting is Bill Berry of Hazleton, council vice president, while TNG International Representative William M. Brown and Wilkes-Barre Guild President Jack Wallace, right, look on. Alfano also was presented an attache case.

Radio Liberty unit in Munich.

Early in January Wade and 14 of her slate-mates were certified winners after another federal judge held that the Munich votes would affect the margins but not the results of their races. The other five who ran on Wade's slate were certified after a membership meeting on Jan. 22 voted to invalidate the Munich votes. [Guild Reporter, Jan. 9, Feb. 13.]

Lipton and Mulcahy's petition to the local elections committee charged that U.S. members had been improperly included or excluded in the voting and that the committee had improperly handled some aspects of the election, including ballot security.

Slates led by Wade and Lipton currently are vying for 15 of 17 delegates the local is sending to the TNG convention. Orcutt and Egan, are running unopposed, as in December.

More Terre Haute hearings

Terre Haute, Ind.—National Labor Relations Board hearings on unfair labor practice complaints against the Terre Haute Tribune and Star are scheduled to resume June 1.

Seven days of hearings have already been held on NLRB complaints stemming from charges brought by the Terre Haute Guild, including a charge that the company acted illegally when it notified a number of Guild-covered strikers that they had been permanently replaced.

The Guild's fledgling advertising department unit struck the paper Feb. 27 after the NLRB issued a complaint on the company's unfairly harassing, intimidating and threatening members of the unit because of their union activity.

Members of the Guild's established business, circulation and editorial unit are honoring picket lines.

Bargaining was scheduled to resume May 21 with assistance from a federal mediator. No progress was made when the Guild and company met twice during the week of May 11-15.

Mailers, who also struck the paper Feb. 27 over company un-

fair practices, returned to work April 25 after reaching agreement on a new contract. Members of the Printers union who had been honoring their sister union's picket lines returned to work April 26, also with a new contract.

Teamsters union members who struck the paper six days before the Guild and Mailers are continuing to support the strike although they too have reached agreement with the company on a new contract.

Meanwhile, disorderly conduct charges against International Representative Marshall Schiewe and two Guild members were dismissed upon motion of the prosecution May 6.

The charges flowed from a picket line incident April 24 involving a truck trying to leave the paper's premises.

The company has continued to publish a combined Tribune and Star throughout the strike. It has used the U.S. Postal Service for much of its distribution.

The Guild was recognized as bargaining agent for the advertising department employees a year ago. The unit is seeking an initial contract.

'Clarifications' in Seattle appealed

Seattle—The Pacific Northwest Guild is appealing a ruling by the National Labor Relations Board's acting regional director here that would exclude a net of 11 jobs and 13 employees from coverage under the local's contract with the Seattle Times.

Acting on a petition filed by the Times on May 5, 1980, seeking to exempt 20 jobs from Guild coverage and a subsequent petition filed by the Guild on Aug. 1, 1980, seeking to cover 29 jobs currently excluded under the contract, Walter J. Mercer held that 15 of the jobs the company sought ought to be excluded on supervisory or managerial grounds, while upholding the Guild on four of the jobs it argued should be included in the bargaining unit.

The April 22 ruling has no immediate effect, however, since the Guild and company previously agreed that no exempt jobs would be included or covered jobs

excluded until all appeals are exhausted.

Even if the final outcome exempts employees now covered by the Guild's contract, those employees will have the option of remaining in the covered unit in a position in the "same classification." The Guild and the company agreed to that option in bargaining for their current contract last fall.

Mercer refused to consider whether 13 jobs the Guild sought to cover were properly excluded, holding that the jobs in question had been "historically excluded by the parties from the unit" and had "undergone no recent, substantial changes."

But he rejected the Guild's argument that the employer's petition should be dismissed on similar grounds saying that the board has "stated clearly that it is compelled to exclude individuals found to be supervisory,

managerial or confidential even where it is shown that the parties have for years agreed to include such individuals in their bargaining unit and even where there have been no recent changes in the duties or responsibilities of the persons in question."

Among the jobs Mercer ruled ought to be excluded from the Guild's unit where six assistant city editors, two circulation office supervisors and the advertising dispatch supervisor.

Among those that he found properly included in the Guild's unit were two assistant librarians, the news features copy desk chief and the sports news editor. Upholding the Guild's petition, he included the day and night photo editors, the public relations manager and the newspaper-in-education manager.

The Guild said that Mercer apparently took the view, particularly in the news department, "that even a minimal amount of supervisory responsibility entitled the company to exclude a person."

The local also noted that personnel changes made by the Times since it filed the unit clarification petition have made the situation "even more unclear" because some people "no longer hold the same positions . . . while others have had substantial changes in their duties and responsibilities."

Robert B. Gilson, led Erie, council

Erie, Pa.—Robert B. Gilson, Sr., a former president of the Erie Guild and of the Great Lakes District Council of Guild locals, died here May 1 following a brief illness. He was 53.

A classified advertising sales employee of the Erie Times and News for 28 years, he was president of the Erie Guild from 1960 through 1962 and again in 1966 and 1967.

He was first elected president of the district council in 1965, when it was the Pennsylvania-Ohio-Indiana District Council,

and was re-elected for each of the next eight years. The council's name was changed to the Great Lakes District Council in 1972, the eighth of his nine years at its helm.

He also was an Erie Guild delegate to several Guild conventions during the 1960s and 1970s.

Survivors include a son and a daughter, both of Erie.

Separate Duluth local okayed

Washington — TNG's International Executive Board has approved the re-establishment of a Lake Superior Newspaper Guild in Duluth and agreed to grant a local charter if the members of the Twin Cities Guild give their consent.

The Lake Superior Guild, representing advertising, business office, circulation, editorial and other employees of the Duluth Herald and News-Tribune, relinquished its charter in 1975 to become a unit of the Twin Cities Guild.

In acting on the request to charter a separate local, the IEB

noted that the publisher of Knight-Ridder's Herald and News-Tribune had agreed to recognize the Lake Superior Guild as the representative of the Guild unit there and that a tentative agreement had been reached on a contract renewal.

The representative assembly of the Twin Cities Guild had approved a vote by the Duluth unit to re-establish a separate local. Confirmation of that action is anticipated at a membership meeting of the Twin Cities Guild May 30.

The new charter would be effective June 1.

TECHNOLOGY SEEKING A MARKET

'Electronic Examiner' by CompuServe

By JANE CARROLL
San Francisco Examiner*
Business Writer

YOU DON'T have to buy this newspaper anymore to read this story or any other article in the Examiner. You can read it on your personal computer, if you're hooked up to CompuServe.

CompuServe Inc., which was bought by H&R Block Inc. last year, began as a data-processing service 11 years ago in Columbus, Ohio. To make use of its computers during non-business hours, the company in 1979 formed CompuServe Information Service, which contracted with companies to provide national motor racing reports, economic news, travel, ski reports, sports news and educational packages. It made the information available to people with home computers over its national network of 26,000 miles of leased telephone lines.

Last year it started an experiment to expand the information it offers the 10,000 CompuServe subscribers to include local, national and international news. Six newspapers—the Examiner, Columbus Dispatch, Washington Post, Virginian-Pilot and Ledger-Star (Norfolk, Va.), San Francisco Chronicle and New York Times—and the Associated Press news service are now available to CompuServe subscribers. The Los Angeles Times, Atlanta Journal and Constitution, St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Middlesex News (Framingham, Mass.) and the Minneapolis Star and Tribune will start putting their information into CompuServe's computers by August.

This "Newspaper Information Provider Experiment," which runs through the end of the year, is the second major project in this country to make newspaper content available electronically. American Telephone & Telegraph Co. and Knight-Ridder Newspapers Inc., in another experiment, transmit the Miami Herald and News to 160 homes in Coral Gables, Fla.

"Newspapers ought not to overlook any possibilities to get reliable information to people," said Examiner editor and publisher Reg Murphy. "Newspapers have to think of themselves as being in the information business."

The Examiner on the home computer screen isn't quite the same as this newspaper. There are no advertisements, no photographs, different headlines. That's why it's called the Electronic Examiner.

As yet, it's more expensive to get access to an electronic newspaper than to read it in print form.

... Atari offers it "like a towel in a box of Breeze ..."

Radio Shack offers a "dumb" TRS80 computer for under \$500. A dumb terminal needs a phone hookup with a computer network, such as CompuServe, in order to operate. With the TRS80 you get a keyboard resembling a typewriter keyboard attached to a small TV set, and a coupler in which to place the phone when you use the computer.

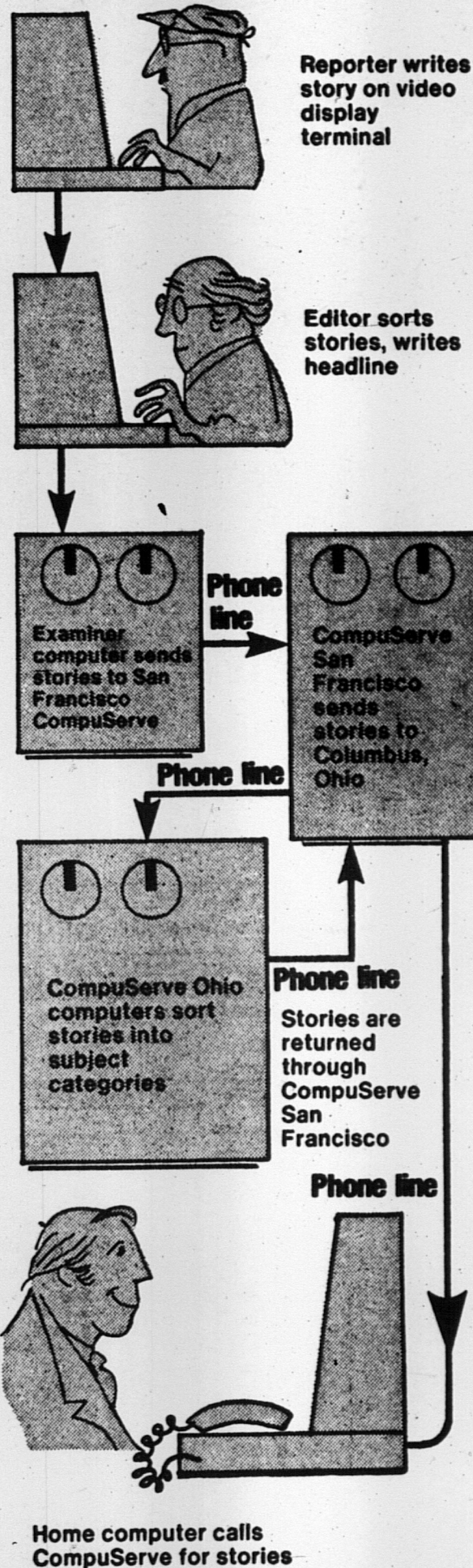
To get access to CompuServe if you buy a "dumb" terminal, you can buy a \$19.95 package that includes a password to CompuServe, an identification number for billing, an hour of time and a pamphlet that explains how to operate the computer.

If you have a more expensive "smart" home computer—it has its own "brain" so you can use it without hooking up to another computer—such as Atari, Apple, Pet Commodore, you must buy a \$29.95 device that will allow the computer to communicate with CompuServe.

You don't call the Examiner subscription department to get the Electronic Examiner. You get it through CompuServe, which distributes its packages only through the 7,000 Radio Shack stores across the country. Atari offers access to CompuServe if you buy one of its computers. "Like a towel in a

*This article, and the accompanying sketch, are reprinted with permission from the May 10 issue of the San Francisco Sunday Examiner and Chronicle. Jane Carroll is a member of the Examiner unit of the San Francisco-Oakland Guild.

The Electronic Examiner



box of Breeze," said Richard Baker, editorial director of CompuServe Information Service.

For each hour of time between 5 a.m. and 6 p.m. PDT, CompuServe charges \$22.50. In the off-peak hours of 6 p.m. to 5 a.m., on weekends, and on CompuServe holidays (roughly the same as national holidays), the charge is \$5 per hour. "The average session by an individual is 15 or 16 minutes a night," said Baker.

CompuServe computes the time used and sends the bill electronically to the customer's credit card company. Charges appear on a subscriber's MasterCard or VISA bill monthly. The information providers receive a percentage of the revenues CompuServe receives, varying with the information provider, Baker said. [A representative of one newspaper on the system said it gets 20 percent.]

It's easy to read the Electronic Examiner. You dial the local CompuServe phone number, wait for a beep and place the phone into a coupler. You type in your identification number and password and up

pops a list of information categories including newspapers, finance, entertainment and education.

When you choose the newspaper category, a list of all the newspapers and the Associated Press news service appears. Select the Electronic Examiner and you get a list that includes the Today column, which capsulizes the major stories in each section of the paper, national/world news, city/state news, sports, business, opinion/editorial, Scene, arts and, eventually classified ads. When you select a category you can read a story that you choose from a list of headlines.

Each section, columnist and continuing categories such as movie, theatre and restaurant reviews are

... Subscribers can look for an electronic pen pal ...

assigned a page number so that you won't have to go through the larger category to the smaller category to find the information you want.

Because the system is "interactive," subscribers also can write letters to the editor into the terminal and send them to the newspaper, where an editor checks the electronic mail box for messages each day. A subscriber in San Francisco isn't limited to the local newspapers: all are available.

Besides the basic information, subscribers can:

- ✓ Send messages electronically to anyone else who subscribes to the CompuServe system.
- ✓ Request to "talk" to someone who is also looking for an instant electronic pen pal, and the computer will match them up.
- ✓ Play games, including one similar to "Dungeons and Dragons."
- ✓ Enter an electronic version of CB radio channel 19 and "talk" with others who are using it.
- ✓ Use the Micronet personal computing category to enter information that CompuServe will keep for you in one of its 24 mainframe computers.

Each day, editors at the Examiner give CompuServe the stories that appear in the newspaper that day. Reporters type their articles into a computer. Copy editors prepare the copy to be put into print form by correcting spelling errors, double-checking facts, improving grammar and writing headlines.

The editors for each section of the paper decide what will appear in the paper. The news editors determine where in the newspaper the stories will appear, how long they will be and what size headlines to write.

The editors for the Electronic Examiner take the stories that have been designated to appear in the newspaper, write different headlines (because the space available in a line of type on the screen is often less than the headline that appears in the newspaper) and send the stories to the CompuServe computers in Ohio. Those computers put the story in the correct category for subscriber use.

CompuServe doesn't save back issues of the Electronic Examiner. Each day's news is replaced by the next day's.

At the end of eight months, CompuServe will be able to tell each newspaper what categories subscribers requested most so that the newspaper's editors can evaluate what to do next with this new way of transmitting information.

IT'S A TECHNOLOGY in search of a demand," said Jim Sevens, Examiner general manager. "We'll attempt to determine what the future might hold."

"Nobody really knows where the information systems in the world are going," said Murphy. "The people who are the consumers haven't really made up their minds or been exposed to all the possibilities."

Murphy doesn't believe that the new electronic information systems will replace newspapers. "I absolutely believe that there's not gonna be a day when newspapers aren't the basic carriers of data. Newspapers' success will be based not only on readability, but accessibility of information."

"People will still demand editors. The flow of information is so overwhelming that they'll still want editors to figure out what's important."

Three more declare for IEB

(Continued from Page 1)

ber of last year. He was also elected editor of the local's publication "The Frontier Reporter" during his four years as president.

He served as chairperson of the Finance Committee at last year's TNG convention and served the last two years on the International Election Referendum Committee.

Martino declared her candidacy during the New England District Council's meeting May 9-10. President of the council and treasurer of the Manchester Guild since 1978, she is an advertising promotion co-ordinator at the Union Leader and New Hampshire Sunday News. She has chaired the local's human rights committee and is a member of the board of representatives of the New England Servicing-Organizing Program.

She was chairperson of the Research and Information Committee at last summer's TNG convention, the Constitution Committee in 1979 and the Hu-



Dianne M. Martino
Candidate for at-large seat



Richard J. Roth
Declares for at-large seat

man Rights Committee in 1978.

During its spring meeting the New England District Council endorsed Martino's candidacy along with those of Patrick Rushton, who is seeking re-election from Region 1, the Northeast, and of Mulcahy of New York.

Delegates to the council from the Providence and Pawtucket Guilds, however, abstained from voting on the endorsements saying that they will wait until all candidates have announced before making any endorsements.

Under TNG's Constitution, candidates for international office are nominated at convention with any contests decided by membership referendum in the fall, except that if more than two persons are nominated for any office (more than 12 for at-large vice presidencies), votes by convention delegates pare the field to two nominees for each position.

Delegate to CBTU

Washington—TNG Vice President At Large Joyce Walker-Tyson of Detroit was to represent TNG at the annual convention of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists here May 22-25. She was named by the International Executive Board during its spring meeting April 27-30.

Speakers named for Hill meet

(Continued from Page 1)

tional safety and health director for the AFL-CIO's Industrial Union Department, will discuss what has happened to the Occupational Safety & Health Administration since the Reagan team took control in the Labor Dept.

Norman Hill, president of the A. Philip Randolph Institute, will speak to the conference about attacks on equal employment opportunity during a luncheon session June 8.

Among the speakers on the second day of the conference will be Ray Denison, the AFL-CIO's legislative director. He will have advice for conference participants on how to

organize and carry out grassroots lobbying campaigns.

On June 10, participants will join with representatives of more than a dozen other unions affiliated with the Industrial Union Department in a larger meeting on Capitol Hill where they will hear from Rep. George Miller (D-Calif.) and Rep. David Obey (D-Wis.), among others.

Miller is chairman of the House Labor Standards Subcommittee, while Obey chairs the House Budget Committee's Task Force on Economic Policy and Productivity.

The meetings June 8 and 9 will be at the Capitol Hill Quality Inn.

Appeals by two upheld in Detroit strike case

Washington — TNG's International Executive Board during its spring meeting upheld appeals by two Detroit Guild members who had been charged and fined by the local's trial board for crossing Teamster's picket lines at the Detroit Free Press during a 12-day strike last July.

The IEB, on recommendation of its Appeals Committee, reversed the trial board's actions as defective because the directive to members to honor the picket lines came from the local's executive committee, rather than its representative assembly.

TNG's constitution provides for a local governing body to endorse the strike of another union and direct Guild members to honor picket lines, but it permits that action to come from the lo-

cal's executive committee only where there is no representative assembly.

The Detroit Guild's representative assembly did vote to affirm the executive committee's directive, but that vote came four days after the strike ended. That action "could not have a retroactive effect," the IEB said.

The IEB noted that nothing in its ruling "should be viewed as condoning the conduct of the accused appellants."

The local's directive to honor the picket line was made in "good faith and in keeping with sound union objectives," the IEB pointed out.

TNG Vice President Joyce Walker-Tyson of Detroit was recorded as abstaining on the IEB action.



Richard M. Peery
Challenges for Region 2 IEB seat



John B. Mitchell
Region 2 VP seeks 2nd term

1980-81 TNG audit: what came in; where it went

Following is the report of TNG's financial standing, including the Defense Fund, and General Fund operations for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1981, as audited by Shulman, Kurtz, Turer & Topez, certified public accountants.

Balance Sheet—General Fund, March 31, 1981

ASSETS	
Cash in banks and on hand	\$ 280,138
Advances receivable	22,598
Loans receivable	77,095
Prepaid insurance and transportation expenses	26,649
Deposits	62,729
Investments	675
Accounting equipment (net)	160
Total assets	\$ 497,580
LIABILITIES	
Accounts payable	\$ 14,367
Due to Defense Fund	27,524
Payroll taxes payable	16,743
Severance pay reserve	198,571
Total liabilities	\$ 257,205
Net worth surplus	\$ 240,375
Total liabilities and net worth	\$ 497,580

Income & expense, General Fund, year ended 3/31/81

INCOME	
Membership—Per-capita taxes	\$2,165,924
Initiation fees	14,022
Reinstatement fees	391
Agency fees	30,938
Servicing salaries and expenses paid by locals	17,202
Guild Reporter income	2,268
Research Dept. sales	3,244
Expenses paid by Defense Fund	44,324
Other income	7,440
Total income	\$2,285,753
EXPENSES	
Per-capita taxes	\$ 111,257
Field operations	791,505
Administrative operations	342,678
Office management	564,041
Executives	99,463
Other expenses	346,930
Total expenses	\$2,255,874
Operating surplus	\$ 29,879
Net worth surplus—beginning of year	\$ 210,496
Net worth surplus—end of year	\$ 240,375

General Fund, budget & expense, year ended 3/31/81

	Expended Year Ended 3/31/81	Budget Year Ended 3/31/81	(Over) or Under Budget
1. Per-capita taxes	\$ 111,257	\$ 107,000	(\$ 4,257)
2. Field Operations	791,505	1,070,000	278,495
A. Director—Salary	42,106	42,840	734
Expenses	3,315	5,000	1,685
B. Organizing and Servicing:			
IRs' salaries	\$ 384,307	\$ 408,974	\$ 24,667

	Expended Year Ended 3/31/81	Budget Year Ended 3/31/81	(Over) or Under Budget
IRs' expenses	159,550	180,000	20,450
Secretaries—stenographers	8,844	8,785	(59)
Miscellaneous organizing and servicing	56,505	55,000	(1,505)
Organizing-servicing program subsidies	1,200	1,200	—
C. Collective Bargaining Salaries—Executive Secretary, Contracts Committee	\$ 35,723	\$ 36,348	\$ 625
Pension consultant.. Secretaries—stenographers	11,502	11,500	(2)
Collective Bargaining and Research	8,844	8,785	(59)
Asst.	8,531	21,562	13,031
Human Rights Co-ordinator	34,263	34,872	609
Research & Information Associate.. Expenses—personnel	26,102	25,762	(340)
	10,713	4,000	(6,713)
	\$ 791,505	\$ 844,628	\$ 53,123
3. Administrative Operations:			
A. Director—Salary	\$ 42,106	\$ 42,840	\$ 734
Expenses	1,502	1,000	(502)
B. Research and Information:			
Salaries—Director	\$ 34,857	\$ 35,466	\$ 609
Associate Director	12,754	12,981	227
Secretaries—stenographers	8,844	8,785	(59)
Expenses—personnel	2,051	3,000	949
Books and periodicals: legal and bargaining services	2,303	2,200	(103)
Subscriptions	3,034	2,000	(1,034)
Other printed material	1,235	1,000	(235)
Publications and literature: Constitution	8,706	8,000	(706)
Organizing and other literature	2,410	4,500	2,090
Institute and seminars	1,231	4,000	2,769
Miscellaneous	700	500	(200)
C. Guild Reporter:			
Salaries—Editor	\$ 35,485	\$ 36,105	\$ 620
Assistant editor	12,754	12,981	227
Clerical	22,455	23,600	1,145
Expenses—personnel	3,033	1,750	(1,283)
Printing	90,251	80,000	(10,251)
Postage	35,710	31,500	(4,210)
Addressing	16,232	17,750	1,518
Pictures, special material	4,438	3,500	(938)
Miscellaneous	587	500	(87)
	\$ 342,678	\$ 333,958	(\$ 8,720)
4. Office Management			
Salaries—Office manager	\$ 22,026	\$ 21,716	(\$ 310)
Secretary—stenographers	26,531	26,350	(181)
Bookkeeping	36,424	35,720	(704)
General clerical	32,280	31,300	(980)
Expenses:			
Rent and maintenance	57,954	54,000	(3,954)
Stationery and supplies	34,625	28,000	(6,625)
Equipment	4,000	3,500	(500)
Telephone and telegraph	24,375	24,000	(375)
Repairs and improvements	4,864	3,000	(1,864)
Postage	16,701	15,000	(1,701)
Auditing	8,800	8,400	(400)
Insurance and bonding	18,000	12,000	(6,000)
Employee pension	56,644	55,000	(1,644)
Employee health and welfare	57,959	57,000	(959)
Directly billed transportation	128,575	110,000	(18,575)
Data processing	28,468	25,000	(3,468)
Miscellaneous	5,815	5,000	(815)
	\$ 564,041	\$ 514,986	(\$ 49,055)
5. Executives:			
Officers' salaries	\$ 90,046	\$ 90,725	\$ 679
Officers expenses	9,417	12,500	3,083
	\$ 99,463	\$ 103,225	\$ 3,762
6. Other Expenses:			
Legal	\$ 36,798	\$ 32,000	(\$ 4,798)
Payroll & personal property taxes	58,201	52,000	(6,201)
Contributions and tickets	18,611	12,500	(6,111)
Delegates and committees	43,439	50,000	6,561
I.E.B. meetings	47,476	48,000	524
Severance-pay provisions	45,003	35,000	(10,003)
Convention reserve	80,000	75,000	(5,000)
Brown Award	1,000	1,000	—
Brown Award expenses	1,975	2,000	25
AFL-CIO-IUD Conventions	398	3,000	2,602
CLC Convention	1,257	2,000	743
IFJ meetings	11,285	9,500	(1,785)
Guild Service Award	614	1,500	886
Irving Leichter Scholarship Fund	873	1,500	627
	\$ 346,930	\$ 325,000	(\$ 21,930)
Totals	\$2,255,874	\$2,228,797	(\$ 27,077)

Balance Sheet—Defense Fund, March 31, 1981

ASSETS	
Cash in banks:	
Checking account	\$ 30,423
Savings accounts, certificates of deposit	753,807
Investments (at cost)	2,899,592
A.T.A. bond	500
Loans receivable—Guild affiliates	348,829
Due from General Fund	27,524
Other investments (at cost)	8,739
Total assets	\$4,069,414

LIABILITIES

TNG's Defense Fund had no liabilities as of March 31, 1981.	
Net worth surplus	\$4,069,414
Total liabilities and net worth	\$4,069,414

FOR URBAN FAMILY OF FOUR

Living costs boost BLS budget over Guild average reporter top

Washington—Fueled by double-digit increases in the cost of food, transportation, housing, medical care and taxes, the U.S. Labor Dept.'s Urban Family Budgets for 1980 rose by more than most Guild minimums in the past year, taking the mid-level budget above the average reporter top minimum for the first time since 1971.

The latest budgets, updated to reflect living costs as of last fall for goods and services for a hypothetical family of four at three living levels, were released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics April 22.

Percentage increases in the budgets were the largest since 1974, the BLS reported.

The "intermediate" budget—once called "modest but adequate" by BLS—rose by 12.8 percent from the year before, to \$23,134, or \$444.88 a week, a weekly increase of \$50.32.

The average reporter top minimum in Guild contracts with U.S. daily newspapers on April 1, meanwhile, rose by 9.1 percent, or \$36.25 a week—\$14.07 less than the increase in the intermediate budget—to \$433.75.

Last year the mid-level budget had come within \$2.94 of catching up to the average U.S. reporter top minimum, closing on a \$17.30 gap between the 1978 budget and the reporter average.

The new "higher" budget—once said to provide the "American standard of living"—rose by 13.5 percent, to \$34,409 a year, or \$661.71 a week, a weekly increase of \$78.69.

The new "lower" budget—once described as "austere"—rose by 11.6 percent, to \$14,044 a year, or \$270.08 a week, a weekly increase of \$28.06.

The average clerk top minimum continued to trail the lower budget, with the gap between the two growing by \$6.80, to \$39.39 a week. The average clerk minimum in Guild contracts with dailies on April 1 was \$230.69,

Up by \$15 to \$45 since last fall

Washington — Updating the BLS budgets to reflect increases in prices and taxes since last fall produces increases ranging from \$15.13 to \$45.21 a week, according to estimates by AFL-CIO economist Anne Draper.

The updated lower budget requires \$285.21 a week, up \$15.13; the intermediate budget, \$470.40, up \$25.52, and the higher budget, \$706.92, up \$45.21.

up by \$21.26 a week from last April.

The margin between the intermediate budget and the average circulation district manager top minimum—\$396.83 a week on April 1—grew by \$22.09, to \$48.05 a week.

The average reporter starting minimum's lead over the lower budget declined to \$1.16 a week from a \$6.27 lead last year. The reporter starting minimum average in U.S. contracts on April 1 was \$271.24 a week, up by \$22.95 from last April.

Large increases in taxes and the costs of home ownership boosted the intermediate and higher budgets by even more than the lower budget, the BLS said.

It noted that although the amount budgeted for personal income taxes was up by 30 percent at the lower level, compared to 25 percent increases at the intermediate and higher levels, the impact on the two higher groups was greater "because taxes constitute a larger share of the total budget at those levels."

The personal income tax item includes payments to federal, state and local governments. Social Security taxes were also up by about 13 percent at the lower level and by about 14 percent in the other two categories.

Both home ownership and

rental costs are included in the higher and intermediate budgets, while only rental costs are included in the lower one. Ownership costs, based on an assumption that the hypothetical family bought its home six years earlier, were up nearly 13 percent due to a large increase in interest rates charged in 1974 and high fuel and utility costs in 1980, the agency said.

The cost of renting rose by more than 8 percent.

Among consumption items in the budgets, transportation costs rose by more than any other. They were 15.5 percent higher in the lower budget and up about 14 percent in the others.

The BLS emphasized that the budgets do not represent how families actually do or should spend their money, but rather reflect assumptions made about the manner of living at each of the three levels.

The three budgets are also compiled to reflect differences in living costs among U.S. cities. [See chart for comparison of Guild minimums with city budgets.]

The living standard envisioned in the intermediate budget calls for these estimated costs:

Food: \$5,571 a year, \$107.13 a week.

Housing: \$5,106 a year, \$425.50 a month, \$98.19 a week.

Transportation: \$2,116 a year, \$40.69 a week.

Clothing: \$1,292 a year, \$24.85 a week.

Personal care: \$471 a year, \$9.06 a week.

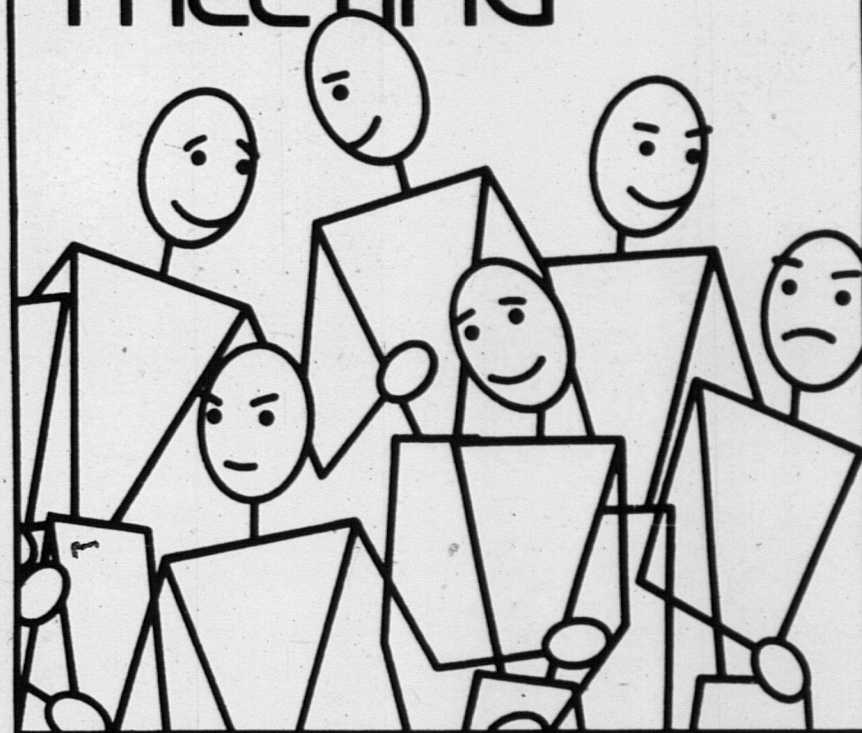
Medical care: \$1,303 a year, \$25.06 a week.

Social Security taxes: \$1,427 a year, \$27.44 a week.

Income taxes: \$3,781 a year, \$72.71 a week.

The budget family of four is composed of a 38-year-old man who works full time, an unemployed woman, a 13-year-old boy and an 8-year-old girl.

HOW TO RUN A UNION MEETING



'How to ...' updated

A revised and updated 64-page edition of a booklet is available from the AFL-CIO as a guide to the orderly conduct of union meetings. It includes tips on increasing membership interest, participation and attendance. Copies are 20 cents each or \$15 per 100 from the AFL-CIO Pamphlet Division, 815 16th St. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006.

CPI base year to rise to '77, locals' bargainers are told

Washington—The U.S. Labor Dept.'s Bureau of Labor Statistics is advancing the base year for its statistical indexes—including the Consumer Price Index—by 10 years to 1977. TNG has informed local officers and bargainers.

The Consumer Price Index will be changed to a 1977=100 base beginning with the index for January published in February 1982, while some other BLS indexes have already been converted to a 1977 base. Richard J. Ramsey, executive secretary of TNG's Contracts Committee, said in a letter to locals.

He warned that locals negotiating cost-of-living adjustments, mileage escalator provisions and other clauses tied to the Consumer Price Index, one of its components or another BLS index should "take particular care to identify the base year," and urged locals with existing provisions tied to a BLS index to consult with TNG in determining whether the

1967 or 1977 base should be used.

Changing the base year "will have little impact" on most cost-of-living provisions under Guild contracts, he noted, since most call for adjustments equal to the percentage change in the CPI rather than the point change.

The change in base year "will have significant impact," however, on those few provisions tied to the point change in an index, Ramsey said.

The BLS reports that it will continue to publish the "all items" indexes on a 1967, as well as the 1977, base, but the individual components of the CPI will be available only on the 1977 base.

A representative of the federal agency said it can provide a conversion factor, and Ramsey urged locals having difficulty calculating index changes to consult TNG.

IRS says, don't tax mileage

Washington — The Internal Revenue Service, citing the Internal Revenue Code and a U.S. Supreme Court decision, has advised TNG that employers' mileage reimbursement payments to employees are not subject to federal income tax withholding even if the payments exceed the IRS standard payments.

Advance payments or reimbursements for expenses incurred in the business of an employer "are not wages and are not subject to withholding," the IRS said in a letter to TNG General Counsel David S. Barr. Barr had asked the agency for a ruling after the Seattle Times began withholding taxes from all mileage payments made to Guild-covered employees.

The budgets vs. minimums

This table compares the highest clerk and reporter top minimums in 19 urban U.S. areas as of April 1 with the weekly cost of the Bureau of Labor Statistics' latest lower, inter-

mediate and higher family budgets for each of the 19 areas. The BLS budgets are for last autumn and do not reflect latest increases in living costs in any of the areas.

	Lower Budget	Clerk Top* #	Middle Budget	Reporter Top*	Higher Budget
U.S. average	\$270.08	\$230.69	\$444.88	\$433.75	\$661.71
Baltimore	273.00	242.00	449.79	485.00	674.79
Boston	289.92	278.00	519.79	507.00†	794.35
Buffalo	261.46	217.32	461.44	464.71	680.35
Chicago-N.W. Indiana	275.06	250.48	449.75	555.64	657.65
Cincinnati	265.08	254.20	436.17	470.00	622.17
Cleveland	267.48	263.96	450.56	490.20	655.31
Denver	265.79	235.00	438.71	514.00	646.29
Detroit	268.06	285.32	445.54	511.40	659.00
Honolulu	355.38	295.25	547.85	504.50	853.77
Los Angeles-Long Beach	291.77	288.16	432.69	490.96	656.23
Minneapolis-St. Paul	269.75	225.00	454.42	537.00	678.52
New York-N.E. New Jersey	276.79	324.79**	514.40	616.07**	821.85
Philadelphia	276.27	250.00	468.54	494.94	690.29
Pittsburgh	266.08	259.00	432.54	480.00	635.13
St. Louis	269.29	245.96	427.85	555.29	623.69
San Diego	277.27	259.34	437.06	497.16	659.31
San Francisco-Oakland	302.60	269.24	475.08	534.36	708.02
Seattle	301.62	268.75	449.85	501.60	644.69
Washington	296.00	250.00	484.67	539.00	719.19

* Lowest paid clerical classification.

† Highest minimum in locals where there is more than one contract.

** Outside ad sales minimum, editorial department not covered by Guild contract.

Under contract expired March 30, applied to persons hired before Jan. 1, 1979.

Poverty line up \$1,000, to \$8,450

Washington—The U.S. government has raised the official poverty level for an urban family of four by \$1,000, to \$8,450 a year.

Under the revised guideline, a family of four with an income at or below \$162.50 a week is considered poor. That's \$107.58 less per week than the BLS's "lower" budget for the same size family.

The criteria is used in determining eligibility for certain federal assistance programs. The poverty level fluctuates with the number of family members, with each, after the first, valued at \$1,380 a year in the continental urban United States.

'This'll be more cost-effective!'



DATELINE: OTTAWA

Glimpse of corporate news giants caught through eye of Kent panel

By HUGH WINSOR, Southern Ontario Guild



CANADIANS have the intriguing habit of undertaking an exhaustive study of a problem only after it is too late to do much, if anything, about it.

It means we would make a better nation of historians than history makers. These comments are especially pertinent to the Royal Commission on Newspapers, established last summer after Thomson Newspapers Ltd. and Southam Inc. in a series of moves killed and merged and traded newspaper properties to wipe out competition in three of the country's largest cities—Ottawa, Winnipeg and Vancouver.

The courts will now decide whether that exercise in corporate cannibalism amounted to a criminal conspiracy. But there were still plenty of areas open to the probers of the royal commission, headed by former Winnipeg Free Press editor Tom Kent.

Public hearings have con-

cluded and the commissioners and their staff have retired from public view to write their report.

Neither their report nor the court proceedings will revive the felled papers. Nor will they have much impact on preventing future takeovers or executions. Only four Canadian cities remain in which there are two or more competing voices: St. John's, Toronto, Calgary and Edmonton.

The commission, however, may recommend some form of tax incentive or subsidy scheme to help new ventures get started in the face of established competition.

BUT ASIDE from its recommendations the commission did provide a glimpse into the interconnection and maneuvering of the corporate giants who control the newspaper chains. Everything that was revealed could only enhance the suspicion and cynicism of the working journalist.

While reporters were supposed to be out competing, for example, the commission heard that their bosses were talking frequently to one another and making deals to lessen the competition on the balance sheets.

Lord Thomson, who controls 40 newspapers in Canada evaluated at \$240 million and 70 newspapers in the United States worth \$312 million, attempted to rebut criticism of the poor quality of his newspapers. He had converted ten weeklies into dailies, he said, and spent \$37 million upgrading plant and equipment over the past five years.

(There was no mention of

what, if anything, the chain had spent to improve editorial quality over the same period.)

That \$37 million should be put in perspective. It is about half, spread over five years, of the amount that FP Publications spent to close the Montreal Star. The former accountant at the Ottawa Journal estimated that to close the Journal Thomson paid three times what it would have cost to make it profitable.

Thomson had so little interest in "saving" the Ottawa Journal and continuing in a competitive situation that the chain's headquarters staff had not made one visit nor instigated one inquiry to check out the recovery program that was well underway at the time FP was taken over by Thomson.

Thomson closed the FP News Service and fired its staff without making one inquiry of its publishers whether they would like the service to be continued.

ALL OF THIS is not to say the commission has had no impact. During the recent provincial election in Ontario, the Ottawa Citizen, pride of the Southam chain, decided to remove its correspondent from the campaign trail. The editors argued they could get adequate coverage from Canadian Press.

The disappointed correspondent suggested that was the kind of editorial decision the Kent Commission would like to hear about. Within hours, she was back on the campaign trail joined by two additional reporters.

DAY



TNG-ITU-GAIU-IUD legislative-political conference, June 8-10, Capitol Hill Quality Inn, Washington.

International Executive Board, pre-convention meeting, June 26-27, Rivermont-Holiday Inn Hotel, Memphis.

Canadian Policy Conference, June 27, Rivermont-Holiday Inn Hotel, Memphis.

Conference of District Councils, June 28, Rivermont-Holiday Inn, Memphis.

48th Annual TNG Convention, Rivermont-Holiday Inn Hotel, Memphis, June 29-July 3, 1981.

Western District Council, fall meeting, Oct. 31-Nov. 1, Monterey.

Middle-Atlantic District Council, fall meeting, Nov. 7-8 (tentative), New York.

Great Lakes District Council, fall meeting, Nov. 14-15, Toledo.

Editorial

More of less?

Soon after Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli became Pope John XXIII, the story goes, he went around the Vatican opening windows and turning on the lights to symbolically launch what turned out to be a series of reforms in centuries old policies and practices of the Roman Catholic Church.

Today, 23 years later, Ronald Reagan is in the White House at the head of an administration he has proclaimed will "reform" decades old policies and directions of the U.S. government. Since the end of the Reagan administration's first 100 days, however, there have been signs that more than symbolically suggest that those "reforms" may include closing windows and turning off the lights.

Perhaps the most serious of them came May 4 when Atty. Gen. William French Smith revoked four-year-old Carter administration guidelines that called for all government departments and agencies to make files and materials available under the Freedom of Information Act unless the agency could establish that release would be "demonstrably harmful."

And, Smith said, the Justice Dept. now will defend agencies and departments against all suits challenging denials of information requests under the act, unless the denials lack a substantial legal basis or a suit's loss would hamper other agencies' ability to protect important records from disclosure.

The Carter administration's policy, Smith said, "had increased the complexities of administering the act and may have increased costs as well." The "cost-effective" gauge is about to be applied to open government.

At the same time, Smith formally announced that the administration is seeking "legislative proposals" from each agency "in a collaborative endeavor" to seek "reform" of the FOI act itself. A Justice Dept. representative said a bill introduced by Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) would accomplish "some of the things we're looking at." Among its provisions: Only "U.S. persons" could make requests under the act and they could make no more than "one request per year per agency on any general subject;" deadlines for agencies' responses to requests would be relaxed and the number of law enforcement and intelligence agency records that could be kept secret would be substantially broadened.

As Jack Landau of the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press observed, the administration's new policy and direction can only encourage government agencies to "use every technicality" to suppress information about what's happening in the government.

Meanwhile, at the ANPA . . .

Speaking of openness and light, consider the following from a report by Jonathan Friendly in the New York Times on the American Newspaper Publishers' Assn. Convention early in May:

"The true business of the convention, however, is not largely transacted in the public ballrooms. . . . It is more likely to occur in the private parties given by Abitibi-Price, the giant newsprint company, or Seyfarth, Shaw, Fairweather and Geraldson, the law firm that counts an increasing number of papers among its clients for advice on dealing with unions. They are not parties at which a reporter feels welcome."

The Guild Reporter



JAMES M. CESNIK, Editor

BARBARA E. NELSON, Assistant Editor



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