

The Merger: Scuttled in San Francisco

By James M. Cesnik
Editor

"You're kidding, right? It's not really off—all those years—all that money! . . . How could they not endorse it?"

Speaking was a 37-year-old printer, a member of the Columbia Typographical Union, ITU Local #101. He was setting the lede story for the Aug. 15 Guild Reporter—the story reporting that the ITU's 1983 convention had voted against endorsing the proposal for merger of the ITU and TNG and that each union's referendum then had been cancelled. He had been a supporter of the merger for months.

"What'n hell are we gonna do now? We've got to merge. If we have to start all over . . . ? It wasn't perfect, but it would've worked out. It would've been the first step . . ."

This time it was a 50-ish member of the same ITU local, on the night shift in the same commercial print

Perlik, Bingel see co-operation continuing

TNG President Charles A. Perlik, Jr., and ITU President Joe Bingel agree that the scuttling of the proposed agreement for merger of the two international unions should not affect co-operative relations between the two unions at any level.

Perlik, in an Aug. 19 memorandum to members of the Guild's short-lived ad-hoc Committee for The Merger, pointed out that "we must live in the same industry, side by side, and the sooner we put aside the hurt and the indignation the sooner we'll be able to get back, co-operatively, to doing the best possible job for our respective memberships."

Bingel, meanwhile, told a reporter with "presstime," magazine of the American Newspaper Publishers Assn., that while the ITU and TNG "won't be talking merger, we will be working together."

shop. A few weeks before he had spoken disparagingly of some provisions of the merger proposal. "The membership won't go for it," he had said then.

The pair's expressions of disappointment and anger were not unlike those of Guild members and leaders across the continent. (There also were,

of course, those in each union whose expressions of satisfaction at the merger's demise were equally as vehement.)

How could the ITU's 125th Convention in San Francisco do such an apparent about-face from the union's 119th through 124th conventions, each of which called with escalating urgency for conclusion of an agree-

ment for merger of the ITU and TNG?

The 123rd convention, in 1981 in Montreal, even had proposed—and the ITU membership subsequently agreed by nearly 2 to 1—that the merger talks be continued under an expedited procedure with a deadline and with an AFL-CIO-appointed referee to decide any questions remaining open after the deadline.

? Was it misunderstanding? . . . of the import of the vote? . . . of the content of the merger agreement, as a whole or some of its parts? . . . of the alternatives?

? Was it doubt of what the union's pro-merger leaders said and wrote that appeared to be at odds with what anti-merger leaders wrote and said about the agreement?

? Was it trepidation about the possible loss of identity and the last vestiges of the ITU's century-old system of fraternalism?

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The GUILD REPORTER

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Washington, D.C.

VDT studies are needed, NIOSH says

Washington—The National Institute for Occupational Safety & Health has said it does not agree with at least one key conclusion by the National Research Council in a recent report about links between video display terminals and vision problems [Guild Reporter, July 22].

Barry Johnson, director of NIOSH's biomedical and behavioral science division, said that NIOSH disagrees with the report's conclusion that VDTs are primarily an "annoyance to workers."

"It's more than annoyance. We don't know the extent of acute, reversible effects on the eye or the possible musculoskeletal consequences of prolonged use of VDTs," Johnson told the New York Times.

Johnson also said that NIOSH, unlike the apparent finding of the special panel of the NRC, believes that further research into the effects of VDT work on vision is warranted.

In addition, Johnson suggested that more research is needed into the lighting and equipment used in conjunction with the terminals.

He said NIOSH itself will continue to support a modest program of VDT research, the Times reported.

The NRC report, released July 11, found "no scientifically valid evidence" that VDTs themselves damage workers' vision and called it "highly improbable" that VDT work causes or contributes to the development of cataracts. At the time it was issued, TNG criticized the report as misleading and unfortunate.

Noting that the 274-page report was the product of a two-year



GEOFF MEGGS/Fishermen's Union

PROTESTING BRITISH COLUMBIA GOVERNMENT'S ASSAULTS ON HUMAN AND SOCIAL RIGHTS

Vancouver-New Westminster Guild members join 30,000 others in demonstration; carrying the banner are Jim Young, former local president, and Alice Busby, local secretary.

B.C. coalition battles repressive bills

Vancouver—British Columbia unions and community groups have banded together in an unprecedented coalition to fight the most regressive package of government legislation ever introduced in the province's parliament.

The fight-back campaign, called Operation Solidarity, was mounted almost immediately after the right-wing Social Credit government on July 7 tabled its new budget and a series of 26 bills, many of which would strip away long standing civil rights.

The stiffest medicine would be

handed out to 250,000 public employees. They were hit by a bill that would permit their employers to fire anyone without cause, without regard to seniority and without the right of recourse to grievance.

Other bills abolished the Human Rights Commission, the Human Rights Branch, the provincial Rentalsman Office, which protected tenants' rights, the Employment Standards Board, the Drug and Alcohol Commission and a consumers' advocacy service.

At the same time, the proposed legislation would give landlords

the power to evict tenants without cause, revoke regional districts' planning powers, remove financing authority from local school boards, transferring it to the education minister, hand over control of the content of college courses to the universities minister, take away professors' tenure, extend public-employee wage controls indefinitely, with roll backs of up to 5 percent possible, and remove many nonmonetary bargaining rights from all direct employees of the government.

In addition, proposed amend-

ments to the provincial labor code, leaked to the media, have increased anger among private sector unions even more. If passed, the amendments would drastically restrict the right to strike, erode the independence of the respected B.C. Labour Relations Board, make it easier for workers to leave their unions and significantly strengthen the rights of employers.

The budget, itself, increased the sales tax to 7 percent, increased hospital user fees, cut back funding of the ombudsman and prompted the abolition of

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B.C. unions battle right-wing assault

(Continued from Page 1)

scores of social services programs.

As the Toronto Star commented editorially a week after "Black Thursday:" "There are certain thresholds of civility, decency and compassion for the most vulnerable, below which none of our governments should fall."

What the B.C. government is doing amounts to "a right-wing rampage that affronts Canadian traditions of social compassion and embarrass us all," it said.

Or, as a headline in a British newspaper put it: "B.C. out-Thatchers Thatcher."

Although the Social Credit Party, headed by Premier Bill Bennett, campaigned successfully on a theme of government restraint in the recent provincial elections, there was no hint then that such harsh measures were being contemplated.

"Restraint, not repression," has been a rallying cry of the many groups that have united to fight the legislation.

So far, the struggle has been highly successful, with huge protest rallies held across the province under the banner of Operation Solidarity.

The most recent rally drew nearly 45,000 people to Empire Stadium in Vancouver, with thousands of public employees booking off work to attend the mid-day gathering.

Members of the Guild have participated in the rallies, and Bill McLeman, administrative officer of the Vancouver-New Westminster Guild, has been sitting in on Operation Solidarity's wide-ranging planning sessions.

For the first time, the often fractious B.C. labor movement is united, as unions both inside and outside the B.C. Federation of Labour have set aside differences to take on the government with a united front.

Operation Solidarity's coalition has also brought together community and public interest groups from throughout the province.

The union movement has pledged that the fight-back will be maintained until every last regressive bill is withdrawn. The government will fail, if it tries to set off one group against another, organizers vow.

Public hostility to the government has been increasing while Operation Solidarity mounts its campaign.

Virtually every opinion poll provides the same message: People support government restraint, but they do not support the way Social Credit is going about it.

While the government clearly is feeling the public pressure generated by Operation Solidarity, as yet there have still been only minor amendments to one bill.

Unless the government does pull back, it is clear that a major confrontation is shaping up in the province, one that some union leaders believe may lead to a general strike.

In a notice to Guild members, urging their attendance at a protest march, Guild Administrative Officer McLeman warned:

"If you are not angry and dismayed, you should be! You may be stripped of some of your human rights by proposed provincial government legislation and you should be furious. You should



ED TAYLOR/Communications Workers of America

San Antonio backs CWA strikers

San Antonio Guild President Ked Mullins, right, and Vice President Allan Turner join striking members of the Communications Workers of America on the picket line in front of Southwestern Bell headquarters in San Antonio. San Antonio Guild members joined the CWA picket line before and after shifts at the San Antonio Light and passed a special reso-

lution of support for the CWA strikers. Meanwhile, in a message to CWA President Glenn E. Watts, pledging the Guild's full support for the CWA strike, TNG President Charles A. Perlik, Jr., said that AT&T, "a healthy corporate giant . . . should stand shame-faced at offering its employees increases of 3.5 per cent down."

be fighting back! You do not have to blindly accept the radical social changes designed by the provincial government to restructure our society by limiting individual liberties and freedoms. Your protest will mean something."

Unions agree to cuts, stave off foreclosure

New Westminster, B.C.—The five unions representing employees of the financially shaky New Westminster Columbian, including the Vancouver-New Westminster Guild, have agreed to cut-back packages designed to reduce the paper's payroll costs and aid it in meeting outstanding debts.

The agreements are part of a plan the paper submitted under the Bankruptcy Act to restructure payments to its creditors and save the 123-year-old, nonchain paper from financial failure.

The plan calls for the paper to repay half its debts over the next three years, while issuing its creditors retractable, redeemable preferred shares due to mature in seven years to cover the other half of the debts.

The paper's 50 creditors also

agreed to extend its new credit.

The Guild's agreement with the paper on cost-savings calls for salaries to be based on minimums that took effect April 2, 1982, foregoing contractual increases that were due last Dec. 1.

The agreement also permits weekly hours to be reduced from 36¼ hours, to 29 hours a week for full-time employees in the classified, accounting, customer service and maintenance departments, under a "work-sharing program."

Where work sharing is in effect, the agreement guarantees there will be no economy dismissals. In other departments, including editorial, display advertising and circulation, the agreement permits staff cuts equal to 4.6 full-time jobs, with no more than two reductions from editorial.

VDT studies needed, NIOSH says

(Continued from Page 1) examination of existing studies and scientific literature related to VDT work, TNG President Charles A. Perlik, Jr., expressed fear that while the report contained nothing new, employers

may interpret it as saying that VDTs pose no health hazards.

Johnson said that NIOSH concurs with the report's findings that VDTs do not cause cataracts or other permanent visual pathologies and that the machines do not emit significant amounts of radiation.

The National Research Council is an operating adjunct of the National Academy of Sciences and the National Academy of Engineering.

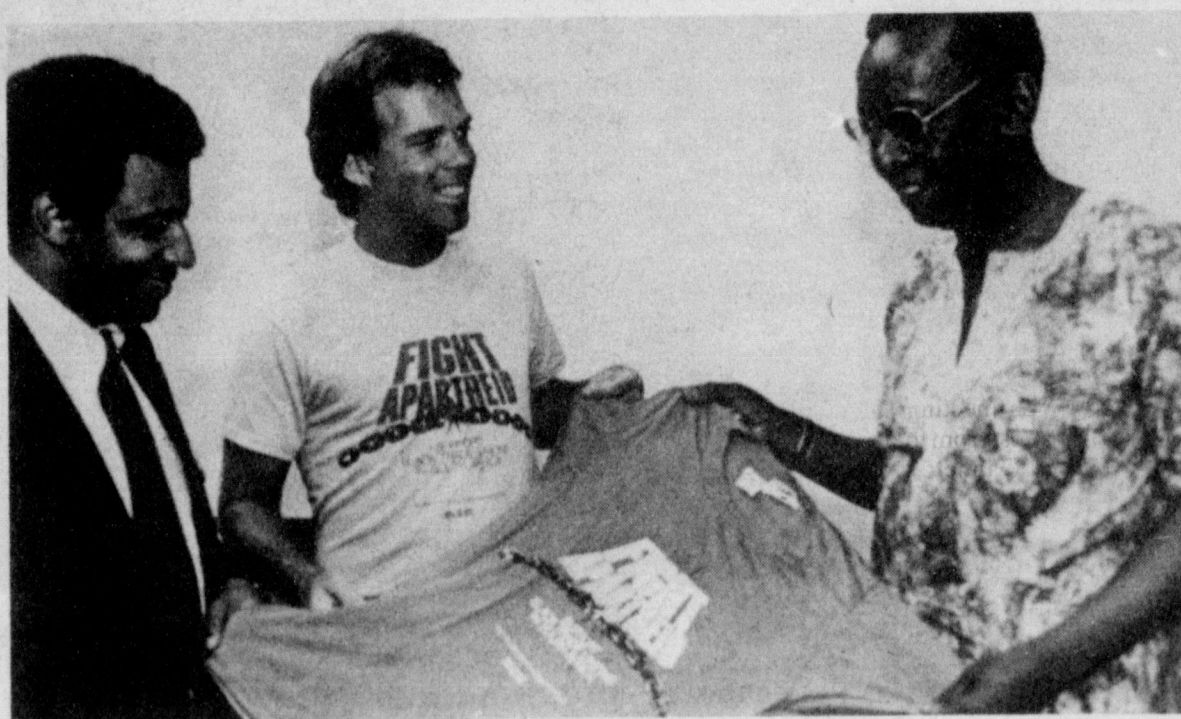
Predicast vote is set

Cleveland—A vote is set for Sept. 16 among 113 employees of Predicasts, Inc., to determine if they want the Cleveland Guild to be their bargaining representative.

The balloting among editorial, research and computer department employees of the company, which markets business information and research in "hard" and electronic forms, will be supervised by the National Labor Relations Board.

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'FIGHT APARTHEID' T-SHIRTS ARE PART OF SOUTH-AFRICA-AID EFFORT

From left, Normal Hill, president of the A. Philip Randolph Institute, Richard Hartman of Frontlash and Nana Mahomo of the African-American Labor Center check one out.

South Africa Project aid urged

Washington—U.S. Guild locals have been urged to publicize among their members the efforts of the Frontlash Foundation to raise funds for the South Africa Project, established to assist black unions in South Africa, including the Media Workers Assn. of South Africa (MWASA), which has had close relations with TNG.

Part of the foundation's effort is selling "Fight Apartheid" T-shirts and buttons, much as it did to aid the

Polish union, Solidarnosc, TNG President Charles A. Perlik, Jr., pointed out in a letter to local presidents.

The South Africa project is a joint activity of Frontlash and the A. Philip Randolph Institute.

Proceeds from the button and shirt sales are going to the South Africa Fund, administered by the AFL-CIO's African-American Labor Center.

The T-shirts, in tan with a red and black logo or red with

a black and white logo, and buttons are available from the Frontlash Foundation, 815 16th St., N.W., Room 203, Washington, D.C. 20006. T-shirts are \$7 each and buttons \$1 each.

Checks should be made payable to the South Africa Project and shirt color and size indicated.

T-shirt and button order forms were enclosed with Perlik's Aug. 19 letter to local Guild leaders.

A first-time delegate's view of TNG's 50th Convention

By Melissa Merson

Washington-Baltimore Guild

I HAD MIXED feelings about going to The Newspaper Guild's 50th Convention in June. I ran as an alternate, assuming I would not have to make the trip. From the day the phone call came telling me my number had come up and that I would be going to Cleveland, my trepidation grew.

I hoped that the main purpose of the convention, a vote on whether to put the merger question before the membership, would mark a joyous moment in Guild history. I feared the joy of affirming the merger document after many long years would be lost in a frenzied melee of political wrangling and late-night alcoholic excess.

However, my preconceptions were incorrect. The convention was more than I had imagined. The knowledge I gained there that we are part of a vast and volunteer army of media workers across the continent will inspire and spur me when I feel my strength and tolerance for Guild work waning.

Some of the 14 delegates from Local 35 began to gather at National Airport shortly after 7 a.m. Sunday, June 26. I should have followed the example of veteran conventioners and napped on the plane. Little did I know I would not get a good night's rest until we returned home.

When we arrived in Cleveland, we spent the first day acquainting ourselves with the hotel—finding the local caucus room, the hospitality suite

This article is reprinted from the August issue of the Guild Forum, the membership publication of the Washington-Baltimore Guild. Melissa Merson, vice president of the local and a reporter with the Bureau of National Affairs, was a first-time delegate to TNG's 50th Annual Convention, June 27-July 1, in Cleveland.

(complete with free drinks), TNG's office and bulletin board and all the meeting rooms.

IN THE AFTERNOON, there was a "Freshmen's Forum" where we were told this would be a "working" convention. Throughout the day I had the desire for a freshman's beanie, like Ivy League college frosh wear, to let people know I was green and as a plea to be treated gently.

After registration, where we received ID tags which we would wear day and night, there was time for a short run through the neighboring streets before dinner with some old and new friends.

Getting down to work on Monday, it seemed like everything was in slow motion. The opening session started late and most of the day was devoted to seemingly telephonic speeches—they went on and on and many asked for pledges of money.

After lunch, we broke into committees. I broke into a sweat as delegates were nominated as committee officers, wondering how I was going to vote, not knowing any of the

candidates. I received a reprieve—all but one of the candidates for each position declined nomination.

After the committee meetings, the delegates drank 72 bottles of champagne Monday night, courtesy of a local congressman.

Tuesday was designated for consideration of the merger question. Hours had been set aside for debate. All other concerns became secondary.

The debate was short. Most of the time was spent on minor matters, speeches and reports. At 3 p.m. the roll call was taken, just like in a national political convention. Each local was called and a representative stepped up to the mike and called out the local's votes.

Our local voted 13-1 in the delegation, which, based on our 21 vote allowance, broke down to 19.5 to 1.5. For the entire convention, the vote was 382.5 to endorse the merger proposal and move it on to referendum (96%) and 12.5 votes against.

THE APPLAUSE was thunderous when the totals were read. People cried and cheered. As I joined in the celebration, a momentary feeling of sadness came over me that this feeling of closeness comes so easily in a huge hall of hundreds of strangers and yet seems almost impossible within our local, where tempers flare and lines are drawn over piddling matters.

Tuesday night there was a banquet replete with more endless speeches and unidentified food. The highlights were speeches by veterans of the Guild's founding days and Joe Glazer's songs.

On Wednesday, there was a chilly cruise through the depressed and deserted industrial backwaters of Cleveland, highlighted by a display of water hose virtuosity by the union members of Cleveland's marine fire fighters.

Through it all, day and night, there were committee meetings and gatherings of the minority caucus, the women's caucus and the small locals caucus, along with meetings of groups of delegates from news chains such as Gannett and Scripps-Howard.

I was lucky to be on the Constitution Committee which had work to do. Reports from the Organizing and Collective

Convention Trivia Quiz

THIS YEAR not only marks the Guild's 50th anniversary, but also is the year of its 51st successive convention. The first met in Washington, D.C., on Dec. 15, 1933, when the American Newspaper Guild was formally founded. Subsequent conventions have met in cities across the continent and beyond. Try your hand at a bit of convention trivia. (Answers on Page 6.)

1. The Cleveland Guild was host to this year's convention; how many other Guild conventions have met in Cleveland?
A. Two B. Three C. Five D. One.
2. When did a Guild convention last meet in Cleveland?
A. 1971. B. 1964. C. 1957. D. 1968.
3. In what city did a Guild convention first meet for a second time?
A. Washington. B. Cleveland. C. St. Paul. D. Detroit.
4. How many Guild locals have hosted a convention?
A. 40. B. 23. C. 33. D. 31.
5. Guild conventions have been held in how many different cities?
A. 23. B. 33. C. 30. D. 32.
6. When was the first Guild convention held in Canada?
A. 1938. B. 1956. C. 1949. D. 1943.
7. How many Guild conventions have met in Canada?
A. Eight. B. Six. C. Twelve. D. Four.
8. What is the smallest city in which a Guild convention has met?
A. Columbus. B. Scranton. C. Ottawa. D. Sioux City.
9. In how many years has Dominion Day fallen during a Guild convention?
A. Three. B. One. C. Nine. D. Eleven.
10. In how many years has the Fourth of July fallen during a Guild convention?
A. One. B. Three. C. Nine. D. Two.
11. In what two cities were the greatest number of Guild conventions held?
A. Cleveland & Washington. B. Washington & St. Louis. C. St. Louis & Detroit. D. Washington & Boston.
12. What Guild local hosted a convention outside the state in which the local is headquartered?
A. Chicago. B. Memphis. C. Providence. D. St. Louis.
13. Guild conventions have met in how many states and provinces?
A. 19. B. 33. C. 22. D. 24.

Bargaining Committees were that their members' time could have been better spent. It was difficult to see how the enormous Finance Committee, with scores of members, was able to get its work accomplished.

Marie Shellock, candidate for International Executive Board vice president at-large, had asked me to give a second speech for her nomination. While the speech was to last a mere two minutes, it was my convention "debut." I chewed up lots of pencils and many hours laboring over my words.

WHILE MANY retired after the day's activities, I returned from dinner each night and went to the hospitality suite. The drinking aside, I quickly learned that this was the place to make new friends and where I learned the most.

I met delegates from all over the country who had different interests and interesting ideas. Other locals handle fi-

nances differently—some better, some worse—while others devote a great deal of energy to VDT projects. Back at home now, I know who to call when I need answers or ideas.

The merger convention, hopefully, will be in Washington next winter. I can't wait to see all these new friends and to meet our new brothers and sisters in the ITU.

My hope is that Cleveland, the home of the first Guild local, has hosted the very last Newspaper Guild convention. I know I'm going to do all I can to be a delegate to the first and founding convention of the Media Workers. With it so close to home, I hope you all come.

Editor's note: Merson's hopes were dashed, of course, after delegates to the International Typographical Union's convention on Aug. 11 refused to endorse the agreement for merger of TNG and the ITU.



MERSON AT THE CONVENTION 'FRESHMEN'S FORUM'
"I had the desire for a freshman's beanie..."

'Works' series premieres in 36 U.S. cities

Washington—"America Works," an eight-week public-affairs television series about issues that workers and their unions are facing, premiered in 36 U.S. cities in July and August and Guild members and leaders are being encouraged to give it a look.

It is the first commercial broadcast venture produced by the Labor Institute of Public Affairs, the fledgling video production unit of the AFL-CIO.

Each of the 30-minute docu-

a different subject. Among them: pay equity, toxic workplace substances, job retraining, senior citizens, plant closings, voter registration and re-industrialization. A followup discussion of the subject by guests with opposing points of view is moderated by Marie Torre.

Torre, who recently resigned from WCBS-TV in New York to work full time as a producer and moderator on the series, was a member of the New York Guild while working at the old New York World-Telegram into the early 1950s.

In 1959, while writing a syndicated television column she became a journalistic cause celebre when she was jailed for refusing to reveal a confidential source.

In a letter to Guild locals in areas where the series is being

A. Perlik, Jr., encouraged Guild leaders to watch the broadcasts and to bring them to the attention of their members and television writers in their areas.

"The series," Perlik said, "makes a valuable point: When labor works, America works."

"America Works" is being broadcast in these Guild cities: New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Philadelphia and San Francisco; Boston, Detroit, Washington, Cleveland and Pittsburgh.

Also, Seattle, Minneapolis-St. Paul, St. Louis, Denver and Sacramento; Cincinnati, Buffalo, Memphis, Norfolk, Greensboro and Harrisburg.

Each program includes six minutes of advertising time. Half of the advertising time has been sold nationally, while the remainder is being sold by local



MARIE TORRE MODERATES 'AMERICA WORKS'

Richard Rahn, left, of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, debates plant closing legislation with Barry Bluestone of Boston College.

How The Merger was scuttled

(Continued from Page 1)

Did it involve the Union Printers Home, the \$500 ITU mortuary benefit, the level of strike/lockout benefits, the initial two-tier system of international dues in the proposed new union? The proposed system of international government?

Was it intra-ITU politics, involving individuals and/or the union's traditional political parties, the Progressives and the Independents?

Was it the prospect of the new union's headquarters ending up in Washington?

Was it the recent merger of the two other publishing industry craft unions?

Was it the 11th-hour proposal by Jackie Presser, president of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, that the ITU join his international union instead?

Each and all and perhaps more were factors to some degree, separately and severally, in the view of one Guild member who was there.

IT WAS CLEAR from the convention's opening gavel that many delegates arrived committed to supporting or opposing the merger proposal. It became clear as the six-day meeting worked its way toward formally considering opposite recommendations to the ITU membership, that few were changing their minds.

It also became clear that those who had arrived uncommitted were making up their minds during the same period.

By the time the question was joined on the afternoon of the convention's fifth day, it appeared that few delegates remained undecided when the debate got underway.

On the convention's docket were five resolutions submitted by delegates—one to endorse the merger agreement and four, three of them identical, calling upon the membership to reject it—plus the report of the convention's Committee on Graphic Arts Unions Merger, chaired by Alvin B. Aleixo, president of the Providence Typographical Union and also a member of the Providence Guild and a delegate to TNG's convention in June.

The committee report, supported by 22 of the committee's 33 members, also proposed that the convention endorse the merger proposal. In addition, it proposed that the convention direct the ITU Executive Council to promote the merger's ratification in the ITU referendum.

With it was a minority report, signed by nine committee members, calling the merger agreement inequitable, with "many unjust components." It pointed to unspecified "alternatives available" and called for membership rejection of the merger.

After some initial parliamentary maneuvering and confusion, the convention proceeded with consideration of the committee report alone, considering it to encompass the five resolutions.

There was a motion to substitute the minority report for the majority

report of the committee. Discussion was brief. The motion was defeated on a voice vote.

ITU PRESIDENT Joe Bingel repeated the strong endorsement of the merger he had delivered in his opening-day address to the convention, "so that there will be no misunderstanding as to my position."

"We in the ITU must stop looking backward for a model of existence; we must look forward if we are to reverse recent trends," he said.

The ITU-Guild merger would create "a new, strong international union, better equipped to negotiate contracts, organize the unorganized, supply technical support to our locals . . . and work towards the formation of a single union," Bingel stated.

"I unequivocally support adoption of this merger document with The Newspaper Guild," Bingel declared.

Don McKay, of the ITU's 2,600-member Montreal local and a member of the merger-committee majority, said that merging with the Guild is "the first important step" if the ITU is to avoid the fate of the dinosaur by adapting through evolution to today's publishing industry.

"Either we evolve or we die along with the linotype, the monotype and all the rest of it," McKay said.

The ITU will not evolve, however, he said, by "jumping into a totally different climate, a climate, for example, where our so-called democratic traditions are lost."

Earlier, however, William F. Jr., of the St. Louis Mailers and a signer of the minority said the merger proposal should be defeated because "it is confused and 'there are too many things you cannot understand and I do not believe.'"

He charged that representation of the merged union's part-time board would be regionally disproportionate and also attacked the proposed distribution of positions on the merged union's full-time executive council during a four-year transition as giving former Guild officers an unfair advantage in the first elections after.

He said he objected to a requirement that formation of district councils or area conferences receive governing board approval, to the two-tier international dues structure and to the proposal's maintenance of the \$500 ITU mortuary benefit, on a self-supporting basis, to the current \$250 in the ITU. Billy Joe Austin, of the ITU Typographical Union and the Independent-Party candidate for the vice presidency to which incumbent merger-advocate Robert Wartinger is seeking reelection, charged that making continuous the \$500 ITU mortuary benefit would doom them both.

ITU members currently pay about \$1 a month for the home; a year of about \$450,000 a year. The has been paying about \$1 million

More than the referendums hit the 'hell box'*

THE MEMBERSHIP referendums on the agreement for merger of TNG and the International Typographical Union were not the only things that ended up in the "hell box" after the ITU's 125th Convention rejected endorsement of the merger proposal.

So did specially scheduled discussions of the proposal at meetings called by several Guild locals, extensive features on the proposal in at least three locals' membership publications and a raft of merger-promotion materials, like buttons and T-shirts.

Some of the meetings were to have been held jointly by Guild and ITU locals and discussion participants were to have included leaders of both international unions.

TNG President Charles A. Perlik, Jr., was to have gone directly from the ITU convention in San Francisco to a special membership meeting in San Diego and thence to meet with the Central California Guild's representative assembly in Fresno.

He was to spend three days at a series of meetings with groups of New York Guild members and joint participation with ITU Vice President Allan J. Heritage in a joint meeting of the Guild and Typographical Union in Buffalo was being scheduled.

TNG Secretary-Treasurer Charles Dale was scheduled to meet with the St. Louis Guild.

There had been requests for joint meetings with Guild and ITU locals in Chicago and in Vancouver. And several other meetings also were being arranged.

Each of TNG's international representatives had been assigned to make him- or herself available to discuss

the merger proposal with leaders and memberships of specific locals.

A unique Guild-Typographical Union team from Providence had met with and was scheduling more meetings with locals of both unions throughout New England.

The team was made up of Frank Prosnitz, the Providence Guild's administrative officer, and Alvin Aleixo, president of the Providence Typographical Union and a member and former officer as well of the Providence Guild. Aleixo, a former printer who now is a columnist for the Journal-Bulletin, was a delegate to both unions' 1983 conventions, chairing the ITU's merger committee.

PROSNITZ, who serves as secretary of the New England Typographical Conference, also attended the ITU convention as an observer and while there unveiled a T-shirt emblazoned with the name that would have been given the merged union—Media Workers International Union, ITU/TNG, with the initials on a pair of clasped hands.

Perlik made a special presentation of one of the T-shirts to ITU President Joe Bingel just before Perlik addressed the ITU convention the morning of the day it took up the merger proposal. Bingel donned the T-shirt on the spot and wore it for the balance of the day's convention session.

Pro-merger buttons prepared by TNG, the San Diego Guild and the (San Francisco) Bay Area and Chicago Typographical Unions also made their debuts at the ITU convention.

Guild observers at the ITU convention wore and passed out dozens of the black on yellow TNG buttons—modelled on highway "merge" signs—and the San Diego Guild but-



T-SHIRT FRONT, BUTTONS—SOUVENIRS OF TNG-ITU MERGER EFFORT

tons—one-inchers bearing the slogan, "Get the urge to MERGE/Guild-ITU."

Many delegates also sported the Bay Area ITU local's buttons, which read: "Merge Now/or Submerge Later." One ITU representative wore an edited version of the Bay Area button the day after the convention rejected endorsement of the merger agreement. He painted out the first, third and final words.

The Chicago Typographical Union's buttons carried the declaration: "We're Ready!/MERGER NOW."

A few of the more creative delegates who were opposed to the merger were seen wearing the TNG button upside down.

ITU Vice President Robert S. McMichen, who opposed the Guild

merger, was persuaded to put on one of the TNG buttons early on the day Teamsters President Jackie Presser spoke to the convention. He accepted the button with the explanation that he was doing so because he was "for merger, just not this merger."

When, a few hours later he was spotted sans button and chided over its absence, he explained that he had taken it off because delegates had identified it as a Guild button and he had had to spend "too much time explaining."

The Pacific Northwest (Seattle-Tacoma), Philadelphia and Washington-Baltimore Guilds had all prepared special pre-referendum issues of their local publications, which they dumped after the referendums were cancelled.

*"Hell box" is a printer's term for the receptacle in which used "hot type" is stored before being remelted and recast into lead "pigs" for reuse in a line-casting machine.

year from its general fund for mortuary benefits.

Austin told of a retired member of his local—Brother Harold—who had been in a nursing home “in a fetal position, recognized nobody, could not talk, could not respond, laying there in crap.”

Six weeks after being transferred to the ITU home, Austin continued, “Brother Harold has a smile on his face. He is happy where he is. He knows where he is and he could communicate with you. . . . What happens to Brother Harold?”

Austin said “we have a viable alternative” to the Guild-ITU merger and that he wanted to know more details of what the Teamsters’ Presser had proposed three days before.

Fred M. Leatham, of the merged Los Angeles Typographical/Mailers Union, pointed out that the ITU has averaged a decline of 4,000 working members a year since 1967 and predicted that “whether we like it or whether we do not, the current mortuary payment . . . eventually will also disappear” like the old fraternal pension “whether you merge or whether you do not merge” because the working membership no longer will be able to support it.

The committee’s majority report reminded “our leaders, both international and local, that it is their duty to work to achieve” the ITU-TNG merger and it recommended that the Executive Council “make all efforts possible to promote this merger through all members, including 27,000 pensioners,” before the referendum.

During debate on the majority report, that recommendation to the Executive Council drew sharp objections from Secretary-Treasurer Thomas W. Kopeck and from Vice President Robert S. McMichen, who both had been campaigning against approval of the merger.

McMichen, who was nominated to oppose Bingel for the ITU presidency the day before, said that if it were passed he would resign “before I will go out and promote this [merger] document.”

He charged that adoption of the merger agreement would produce a takeover of the ITU by the Guild.

McMichen also said he agreed with ITU Representative Tommy McGrath, a member of the ITU Merger Negotiating Committee, that “if you want cheaper dues, if you want the same conditions in this document, just merge your local union with the Guild.”

KOPECK SAID THAT he would consider the recommendation a threat to his credibility since his opposition to the merger “has been very clear over a period of time.”

“I am not going to put my credibility on the line like that,” he said, stopping short of threatening to resign, however.

Referring to the proposed two-tier dues structure in the initial years of the new union, Kopeck said that in a new union “you do not start out unequally one to the other.”

“Let us form a new union and let’s say . . . that what costs, costs us all and we pay as equals,” he said.

TNG President Charles A. Perlik, Jr., had addressed the same question in speaking to the convention that morning, calling it “perhaps the most prevalent criticism I’ve heard here of the merger agreement.”

He pointed out that the ITU would bring to the merged union “approximately four full dues paying members to every three the Guild would bring—a ratio of four to three.”

At the same time, the ITU would bring approximately 125 employees to the merged union; the Guild fewer than 25—a ratio of five to one.

He compared the ITU’s and the

Guild’s expenditures in May for comparable activities—“telephone bills, payroll, publications, and the like, but not the mortuary payments.” They were about \$730,000 for the ITU; about \$240,000 for the Guild. A ratio of three to one, Perlik said.

“Is it any wonder” the Guild would expect the ITU to pay for what it brought while the merged union would be adjusting its expenses to its income? “You wouldn’t accept such costs if the rates were reversed.”

THE CONVENTION merger committee report also noted that the Teamsters’ Presser had invited the ITU to join his international union.

The committee pointed out that “many of our locals have had and continue to have co-operative relationships with Teamsters newspaper locals . . . as is the case with the other unions in the industry.”

“For the benefit of our individual memberships’ needs, it could be no other way,” the committee majority said, adding that “we will continue to have and work for those kinds of relationships” and noting Presser’s pledge that the Teamsters will do the same “whether you come with us or whether you do not come with us.”

Presser’s invitation, however, the committee majority noted, “is not a full, detailed and specific proposal . . . and we have learned how long the road can be between the approach and the conclusion of an agreement for a merger, even when the unions involved have the majority of their memberships in the same industry; even when those international unions share” many basic and fundamental philosophies.

Melding the differences between the ITU and the Teamsters “would be a monumental task.”

The ITU-TNG merger agreement would retain “the essence of both our unions’ long and dearly held democratic traditions,” the report added.

Don DeBlasio, a reporter who is president of the Champaign-Urbana (Ill.) Typographical Union and a member of the convention merger committee, pointed to a few of the provisions of the Teamsters’ Constitution that differ from the ITU:

“An international convention every five years, \$55-a-week top strike benefits, no membership elections for top officers, no binding referenda on important issues, such as merger, no affiliation with the AFL-CIO.”

DeBlasio also asserted that the Guild-ITU merger would be of great aid in organizing editorial and advertising departments. He pointed to his own local which, he said, had about 250 members at two newspapers and at several job shops when he joined seven years ago.

“Now we are down to 82 working members, all at one newspaper, in three chapels, printers, mailers and editorial,” he said, adding: “At my paper alone, printers have lost about 60 percent of their members while the editorial department has grown at least 25 percent. Unfortunately for printers and mailers this is not a transitory fad. . . . No person, no union can turn back time and return the Linotype and our jobs.”

After DeBlasio spoke, several delegates urged unsuccessfully that the convention reconsider its earlier decision to have the merger debate

Perlik: 'Not likely' anything left of pact

Washington—It is “not likely” that there is anything left of the proposed agreement for merger of TNG and the International Typographical Union, TNG President Charles A. Perlik, Jr., has informed members of the Guild committee that had been supporting the merger’s ratification.

“Certainly not in the foreseeable future,” he wrote Aug. 19 to members of the ad-hoc Committee for The Merger.

However, TNG leadership will be “looking at new and different opportunities, inside and outside the newspaper business,” Perlik said, at the same time soliciting committee members’ “advice, guidance and suggestions along these lines.”

printed verbatim in the convention proceedings.

They said they counted on co-operation of Teamster locals with theirs and feared that remarks about Presser’s proposal would be viewed as criticism of the Teamsters and jeopardize that co-operation.

While inviting the ITU to become “part of the Teamster family” in his speech to the convention, Presser also said that his union is preparing a push to organize “the tremendous amount of unorganized” printing-industry employees.

“We at the Teamsters are going to represent that industry,” he declared.

He also said that he did not view his invitation to the ITU as opposition to the Guild, but an alternative for the ITU.

The Teamsters, Presser said, “do not want to sell your property . . . do not want to close your training centers . . . do not want to deny your pensioners.”

The ITU’s training center, at its headquarters in Colorado Springs, has been closed for several years. Its headquarters property is owned by the Union Printers Home.

“We have a quarterly newsletter that is provided for our retirees,” Presser continued. “We have a director of the retirees’ department . . . retirees’ clubs that can service the people.”

A four-page copy of the Teamsters’ retiree newsletter was included with a 60-page notebook on the Teamsters specially prepared for the ITU convention and distributed to every delegate. The newsletter was Volume I, No. 1, and dated August, 1983. Neither Presser nor the notebook mentioned that under the Teamsters’ Constitution retirees “shall not be permitted to hold office or vote.”

“We will give you a national division. You will be recognized as the ITU under our banner. . . . We will select your people to be spokesmen for the districts you come from,” Presser said.

TNG’S PERLIK NOTED in his address to the convention that he had been asked often for his reaction to Presser’s speech to the ITU.

“Well, I certainly agree with Jackie that the labor movement is in serious trouble,” Perlik said, “but as I told him at dinner the other evening, I don’t believe the U.S. president he supports is going to do much to help us out of that trouble. . . .

“And finally, on this topic, we came here to promote our merger agreement between the Guild and the ITU—not to participate in an auction,” Perlik told the delegates.

On the last day of the ITU convention, the Cleveland Plain Dealer carried a story, datelined Washington, quoting Presser as saying he had received messages of support from 32

ITU locals around the nation “and from some members of the ITU’s executive board.”

If the Guild-ITU merger failed, Presser said, the ITU could move toward merger with the Teamsters within 30 days, the Plain Dealer reported.

During the next two weeks, posters inviting ITU members to consider the Teamsters’ proposal appeared on composing room bulletin boards in several cities.

“Only a first class union can get you a first class contract,” they were headed. One carried a cartoon character holding aloft a sign stating that “I’m proud to be a Teamster-ITU.”

THE GRAPHICS Communications International Union—product of the July 1 merger of the Graphic Arts International Union and the International Printing & Graphic Communications Union, also was mentioned as an alternative to merging with TNG by several ITU delegates, most prominently Bert Powers, president of the New York Typographical Union.

GCIU President Kenneth J. Brown originally was scheduled to address the convention, but was unable to do so when it conflicted with his being sworn in as a new vice president of the AFL-CIO.

Powers said that the ITU is “the only mechanical unit in the industry not in that union, and I have resolved in my mind that that is where we belong.”

He also said his conviction that the future of the ITU is not in the newspapers, but in the commercial printing industry, where the bulk of the GCIU’s membership is employed, also helped him to that conclusion.

“I am fearful that if we merge with the Guild . . . we will be delayed in going where we have to go,” Powers said.

Soon after Powers spoke, the question was called and the committee report recommending endorsement of the ITU-TNG merger was rejected, in a 122-86 standing vote of the delegates. A move for a roll call failed.

The next day, the final one of the convention, in a session that began shortly after 7 a.m., delegates enacted several measures related to the merger proposal.

✓ Noting that the ITU Strike Fund “is about to fall below the \$5 million level,” in which case an additional half-percent dues goes into effect “in either September or October,” the convention authorized the Executive Council to maintain the Strike Fund at \$5 million from the ITU General Fund Reserve—“until the merger with TNG is culminated.”

✓ It approved amendments to the ITU constitution that would have provided for a special ITU convention to designate and elect or nominate the officers and board members the ITU would provide for the new union’s initial years.

✓ And, finally, a delegate who had argued vehemently against the ITU-TNG merger the day before, used the merger agreement’s provision that would have limited convention delegates to speaking only once on a question “until all other delegates desiring to speak have been heard” as an argument for adding a like measure to the ITU Laws governing its future conventions. It was approved.

Chain's lawyer convinced one delegate

San Francisco—One delegate to the ITU convention here said a management lawyer convinced him to support the ITU-Guild merger.

John E. Vassar, of the Kansas City Mailers Union, said he heard Capital Cities-chain lawyer Bob Ballow tell ITU President Joe Bingel five years ago that “the worst thing you could do is merge with the Guild.”

Trying to get a fair contract for three years from the Kansas City Star, represented by Ballow’s firm, “convinces me even more that we need to merge,” Vassar told the convention.

Ballow’s firm also bargains for CapCities in Wilkes-Barre, Pa., and Pontiac, Mich.

Field scraps TV outlet; sells assets, takes cash

Philadelphia—Field Enterprises has dismantled the last of five television stations it had put on the sales block last summer, selling the equipment and programs of WKBS-TV, Channel 48, in Philadelphia.

It plans to surrender the station's license to the Federal Communications Commission at the end of the broadcast day Aug. 29, according to the New York Times.

The move surprised many in the broadcasting field, who speculated that Field Enterprises was unable to find a buyer for the station.

The 18-year old WKBS was a profitable station, ranking fifth among seven television stations in the Philadelphia area.

"When you have television stations in this country selling anywhere from \$20 million to \$200 million, how they were unable to sell it is a mystery to me," Turner Broadcasting President Robert Wussler told the Times.

However, Field Enterprises President Lee M. Mitchell said the decision to dismantle the station was not arrived at because there were no buyers, but because that method would produce the most money for the company.

Field Enterprises, owned by half brothers Marshall and Frederick Field, had announced last summer that it was divesting itself of the five television stations. Subsequently, on April 15, the brothers announced that the entire company would be dissolved and its assets, including the Chicago Sun-Times, sold.

According to company officials the brothers demanded cash for the station to aid in splitting the proceeds between them. This reportedly made it more difficult to find a buyer, the Times reported.

The company tried to give the station to the University of Pennsylvania as a tax-deductible gift,

but the offer was refused, the Times said.

Meanwhile, several potential buyers were said to be exploring the possibility of making a bid for the Sun-Times, Field's principal remaining asset.

Among them was the paper's publisher, James Hoge, who had retained the services of a Chicago bank to explore putting together financing and an investor group to buy the paper. Hoge appeared to have "the inside track," a Chicago Guild representative observed.

Another investor group headed by retired Chicago attorney Gerald A. Gittles was reported to be considering making a bid for the paper.

Others said to be exploring a possible bid for the paper included Affiliated Publications, Inc., publisher of the Boston Globe, and Toronto Sun Publishing Corp., publisher of daily tabloids in Toronto, Edmonton and Calgary.

While the Sun-Times, itself a tabloid, trails the Chicago Tribune in circulation and advertising, it had after-tax profits of \$3.4 million last year, on revenues of \$160.7 million. And the company estimates it will have profits of \$4 million for the current fiscal year which ends in September, according to Crain's Chicago Business.

The paper has daily circulation of about 670,000 and Sunday circulation in excess of 700,000.

The company wishes to sell as a block the Sun-Times, its building and the Field Newspaper syndicate, but it has indicated that it would sell each separately or in another combination if necessary.

The decision to liquidate the holdings of Field Enterprises was prompted by Frederick Field's desire to invest in other interests, including motion pictures, race cars and real estate, the company said last spring.

An unseen 'cost' of the spotlight

Adapted from 'The Guild's Paper,'
San Jose Guild publication

San Jose Guild executive committee member Laura Sansom is known for being quiet and unpretentious.

An advertising sales representative for the Monterey Peninsula Herald, she does her job with such low-profile proficiency that few would suspect the artistic talent that flames within her.

In February, Sansom created a poster honoring Women's History Week and entered it in a contest sponsored by a weekly newspaper and the Monterey County Commission on the Status of Women.

She won.

The prize was \$200 and the poster was placed on exhibition in a major department store. Suddenly, Sansom was in demand for interviews—with three other weekly papers and a TV station.

The poster [at right] was reproduced and copies were placed on sale to benefit the Women's History Fund. A public reception honoring Sansom was held.

With a keen nose for news, the Herald decided that Sansom and her poster might be worth a story.

It did one. It even ran her photograph, proudly identifying her as an employee. Even the advertising manager was impressed. Well, up to a point.

The TV station set up a live morning interview with Sansom, and she told the ad manager that because of it she would be a half-hour late for work the next morning.

The ad manager said he un-



derstood perfectly, and thought the exposure would be great publicity for the Herald. Not only that, he, himself, would be watching. And so would the entire advertising department, where a television set would be brought in especially for viewing Sansom's TV debut.

Oh, there was just one little thing, the ad manager ex-

plained warmly.

"We'll have to dock your pay for the half hour."

A small joke? No. He was serious. She was docked \$7.01.

(Sansom is paid the top minimum for outside ad salespersons under the San Jose Guild's contract with the Peninsula Herald: \$526 for a 37½-hour week.)

Polish union ban draws protest

Washington—TNG has joined with the National Writers Union and two other journalists' groups in protesting the dissolution by the Polish government of the Polish Union of Writers.

Calling the Aug. 19 action an "arbitrary decree" that directly attacks "the rights of all Polish people," the four organizations called for the government to reinstate the union and offered their "solidarity" and "friendship" to the "polish writers in this time of trouble."

Also joining in the statement, initiated by the National Writers Union, was the Society of Professional Journalists, Sigma Delta Chi, the Committee to Protect Journalists and TNG.

It was cabled to Jan Szczepanski, president of the banned writers union, and to Wojciech Jaru-

zelski, of the Polish government.

"We understand the numerous and pernicious forms of censorship and repression found throughout the world, including in our own country. Writers everywhere must stand together against such assaults on basic human freedoms," the statement declared.

The writers' union had been in suspended status since December 1981 when martial law was imposed. The Polish news agency PAP attributed the decision to officially dissolve the union to the mayor of Warsaw.

The union had been under pressure to renounce its support for the goals of the banned Solidarity union and to adopt a resolution calling on all writers to endorse Communist values in their work.

The news agency said the decision to ban the union came "after its leadership had rejected all proposals to resolve problems positively." It charged the union with "completely neglecting the activity determined by the creative and life needs of the writers' community and literary life." Instead, the news agency asserted, "it focused its attention on the creation of alternatives to the social and political system in culture and education."

The Polish government had dissolved the independent Polish Journalists' Assn. in March 1982 and quickly replaced it with a government sponsored Journalists' Assn. of the Polish People's Republic.

The independent journalists' union was affiliated with Solidarity.

IEB votes aid for energy coalition

Washington—TNG's International Executive Board has approved a \$1,000 contribution to the Citizen/Labor Energy Coalition to aid in its campaign against decontrol of natural gas prices.

The coalition, headed by William W. Winpisinger, president of the Machinists Union, is leading a campaign in Congress to roll back natural gas prices and extend certain price controls.

The effort is the major counter offensive to a Reagan administration-supported measure that would phase out all federal controls on

natural gas prices by 1987.

The coalition-supported bill, with more than 130 co-sponsors in the House, could save the natural gas consumers more than \$100 billion over the next four years, it estimates.

The Wall Street Journal of August 22 described the coalition's efforts as "one of the most extensive grass-roots campaigns in recent history," reporting that letters it has inspired have been pouring into Congress.

The coalition's supporters, in addition to labor, include senior,

consumer and farm groups.

The IEB approved the contribution in a combination mail/telephone poll.

In the same poll, the board also approved a \$500 contribution to the National Labor Committee in Support of Democracy and Human Rights in El Salvador.

The committee, with TNG as a co-sponsor, sought the contribution to defer expenses associated with distribution of a report on conditions in El Salvador prepared by a union mission to that country.



Trivia Answers



(Questions are on Page 3.)

1. A.—Two. The Cleveland Guild first hosted a convention in 1935.
2. D.—1968.
3. C.—St. Paul. The Guild's 1st Annual Convention met in St. Paul in June of 1934; the convention returned to St. Paul in June of 1945.
4. D.—31.
5. C.—30. While 31 Guild locals have hosted them, conventions have met in only 30 different cities. In 1979 the Providence Guild hosted the convention but it was held in Boston, the site of three earlier conventions hosted by the Boston Guild.
6. A.—1938. In Toronto.
7. B.—Six. In Ottawa in 1967, Toronto in 1938, 1956 and 1980 and in Vancouver in 1961 and 1973.
8. D.—Sioux City. Based on current population figures, Sioux City, Iowa, with a population of 82,003, is the smallest city in which a Guild convention has met. Scranton, Pa., with a population of 88,117 runs a close second. Scranton hosted the convention in 1946, followed by Sioux City in 1947.
9. C.—Nine. In 1948, 1949, 1953, 1955, 1960, 1976, 1977, 1981 and 1983.
10. A.—One. In 1979.
11. D.—Washington and Boston. Each city was the site of four conventions. Conventions met in Boston in 1943, 1953, 1971 and 1979 and in Washington in 1933, 1950, 1966 and 1976.
12. C.—Providence. Providence hosted the 1979 Convention in Boston because the hotel in Providence that was to house the convention was resisting organizing efforts by the Hotel and Restaurant Workers' and the Service Employees' unions.
13. A.—19. Guild conventions have met in 17 states and 2 provinces. Conventions have also met in the District of Columbia and in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

Arbitrator rules with Guild in settling seniority dispute

Minneapolis—An arbitrator has ruled in favor of the Twin Cities Guild in a long-standing dispute over the interpretation of contractual seniority language, holding that seniority must be applied within specific wage classifications rather than within job titles.

The decision, issued late in July by arbitrator Thomas Gallagher, means that any future layoffs under the local's contract

with the Minneapolis Star & Tribune must follow seniority lists for each broad wage grouping, such as group "A" or group "H," the local reports in its publication, "guildpaper."

Jobs falling under wage group "A" include writers, reporters, copyreaders, photographers, artists, layout persons and picture desk workers. Jobs in wage group "H" include assistant city editors,

assistant news editors, business editors, women's editors, book editors and chief photographers.

The company had argued that the contract required a separate seniority list for each job title within each wage group. Adopting the company's interpretation would have produced a large number of seniority lists. "For example, there would have been a seniority list for the job title of book editor, even though only one person holds such a title," the local pointed out.

The Guild and the company had argued over the proper interpretation of the seniority provisions during two rounds of staff cuts in 1982, the first occurring when the company merged the afternoon Star with the morning Tribune. In both instances the dispute was set aside and the parties agreed the manner in which the layoffs were handled would be without precedent.

The Guild then moved to arbitration seeking a ruling on the meaning of the seniority provisions of the contract. The agreement calls for dismissals to reduce the force for economy reasons to be in the inverse order or seniority within each job classification, while referring to wage groups A, E, F, G and H as "job classifications."

Ombudsman belongs in unit, arbiter rules in Minneapolis

Minneapolis — An arbitrator has ruled that the Minneapolis Star & Tribune violated its contract with the Twin Cities Guild by unilaterally removing the work of reader's representative from the Guild's bargaining unit.

The arbitrator, John Flagler, ordered the company to return the reader's representative duties to a Guild-covered position.

The dispute arose shortly after the merger of the two newspapers into a single all-day publication in April of 1982 when the company created a new position called assistant to the editor/reader's representative. Management promoted Lou Gelfand from the bargaining unit position of reader's representative to the newly created exempt job.

While not challenging management's right to promote an employee to an exempt job, the Guild filed a grievance when it became apparent that Gelfand was performing the same reader's representative duties in the new management position that he did while part of the Guild's bargaining unit.

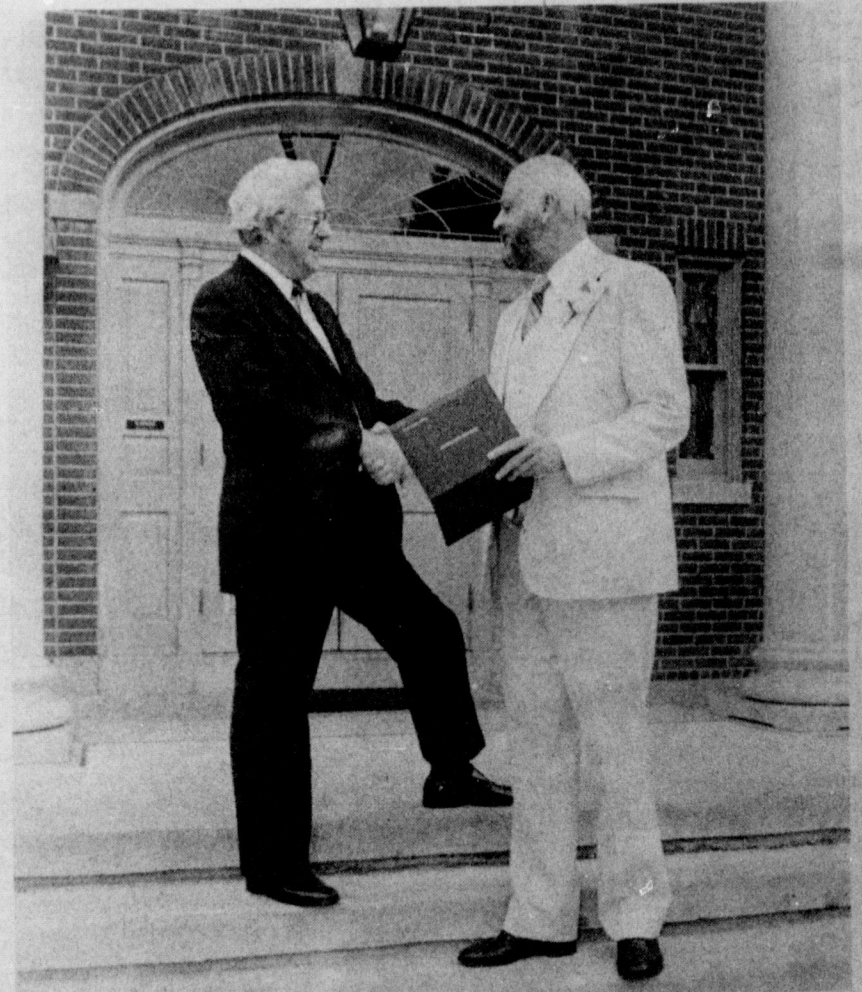
During a two-day arbitration hearing, the company argued that the Guild had agreed to the move as part of a "package deal" that included enhanced severance pay and "buy-outs" in exchange for the Guild's waiver of its right to

arbitrate certain issues related to the staff reductions and merger of the two newspapers.

The Guild, however, maintained that no such agreement was made and that, in fact, Guild representatives had complained about the Gelfand move during the merger negotiations, calling it a "unilateral removal of bargaining unit work."

Flagler, an industrial relations professor at the University of Minnesota, agreed with the Guild and ruled that no agreement on removing the work from the Guild's jurisdiction was ever made.

The 'guildpaper,' publication of the Twin Cities Guild



'Meany U' graduation

TNG International Representative Willard Wendell Hatch, right, is congratulated by TNG President Charles A. Perlik, Jr., on the steps of the AFL-CIO's George Meany Center for Labor Studies following graduation ceremonies during which Hatch was presented a bachelor of arts in labor studies from Antioch University. Hatch is the second TNG staffer to earn the degree through a free-time study program conducted by Antioch and the Meany Center. He was one of nine graduates awarded diplomas Aug. 3. Hatch begins a fellowship program at the London School of Economics in the fall.

Advertising analyst revises forecast upward

New York—Robert Coen, senior vice president of McCann-Erickson and a widely recognized analyst of advertising trends, has revised upward his projection of total advertising expenditures for 1983 in the United States.

In a report issued in July Coen, citing an increase in spending for local advertising, predicted that advertising expenditures in all media in 1983 will rise by 11 percent, to \$73.8 billion. Last fall, Coen had predicted advertising expenditures would rise

by 9.2 percent in 1983.

Coen's revised projections see expenditures for local advertising, chiefly in newspapers, rising by 11.7 percent for the year, to \$32.2 billion, and expenditures for national advertising rising by 10.4 percent, to \$41.7 billion.

Newspaper advertising thus far in 1983 has "done surprisingly well," Coen said, reporting a 15 percent rise in classified advertising in the first quarter of the year, along with a 12 percent increase in retail advertising and a

6 percent rise in national advertising.

And "the help wanted and real estate advertising hasn't really boiled up yet," Coen said, predicting greater gains in both categories later in the year.

The biggest gains in newspaper advertising in the first quarter of the year came in preprints, up 33 percent, while expenditures for cigarettes and automobile ads were down respectively by 9 percent and 3 percent, Coen reported.

For 1984, he projected that advertising in all media will rise by 12.2 percent, to \$82.9 billion.

Meanwhile, the New York Times Co. posted its best quarter ever in the period ending June 30. Citing "dramatic gains" in operating profit from its newspaper group, the company reported a 56 percent increase in after-tax profit for the quarter, to \$23.3 million. Revenue for the quarter of \$284.1 million was up 20 percent from the same period the year before.

\$535 is highest top for classified inside sales

TOP MINIMUMS for classified-ad telephone solicitors in effect on Aug. 1 exceeded \$400 a week at 26 (31 percent) of the 84 daily newspapers in the United States, Canada and Puerto Rico where the jobs are covered by Guild contracts, according to data compiled by TNG's Collective Bargaining Dept.

At one of the 26—the Tacoma News Tribune—the classified phone solicitor top exceeded \$500 a week.

The top minimum was higher than \$350 a week at 39 (46 percent) of the papers and exceeded \$300 a week at 53 (63 percent).

From the high of \$535.10 a week in Tacoma, the minimums ranged down to \$181 at the Terre Haute Tribune and \$175 at the Tonawanda News, with a commission system also in effect at each of the latter.

Average of the top minimums, provided under 68 contracts covering the telephone salespersons for the 84 dailies, was \$342.99 a week.

The average was \$378.97 a week at Canadian dailies and \$345.77 at U.S. papers.

There was parity for classified telephone salespersons with other key top minimums—a TNG goal under

its Collective Bargaining Program—at only one daily, however, the Maui (Hawaii) News. There the top minimum for telephone salespersons as well as for outside salespersons, reporters and photographers was \$475.20 a week.

Following are the classified telephone solicitor top minimums in effect under Guild contracts as of Aug. 1.

	Minimum	After
Tacoma News Tribune	\$535.10—4 yrs.	
Seattle Times	492.75—4 yrs.	
Seattle Post-Intelligencer	490.00—4 yrs.	
New York Times	479.40—3 yrs.	
New York News	475.66—3 yrs.	
Maui News	475.20—5 yrs.	
Detroit Free Press	474.39—3 yrs.	
New York Post	*469.80—3 yrs.	
San Diego Union and Tribune	†456.79—6 yrs.	
San Francisco Chronicle and Examiner	447.86—4 yrs.	
San Jose Mercury and News	447.86—4 yrs.	
Sacramento Bee	438.12—4 yrs.	
St. Paul Pioneer Press and Dispatch	437.75—5 yrs.	
Philadelphia Inquirer and Daily News	422.44—4 yrs.	
Manchester Union Leader	421.30—3 yrs.	
Sacramento Union	420.95—4 yrs.	
St. Louis Post-Dispatch	420.57—4 yrs.	
New Westminster Columbian	420.10—½ yr.	

	Minimum	After
San Mateo Times & News Leader	412.50—4 yrs.	
Honolulu Advertiser and Star-Bulletin	404.70—4 yrs.	
Victoria Times-Colonist	†398.31—2 yrs.	
Baltimore Sun and Evening Sun	398.00—4 yrs.	
Vancouver Sun and Province	395.56—1½ yrs.	
Toronto Star	393.71—3 yrs.	
Stockton Record	392.54—4 yrs.	
Toledo Blade	385.02—3 yrs.	
Providence Journal and Bulletin	382.00—3 yrs.	
Eugene Register-Guard	371.00—5 yrs.	
Denver Post	368.00—3½ yrs.	
Washington Post	†356.00—4 yrs.	
Memphis Commercial Appeal and Press-Scimitar	341.90—5 yrs.	
Boston Herald	341.75—3 yrs.	
Monterey Peninsula Herald	340.00—3 yrs.	
Mt. Clemens: Macomb Daily	339.27—2 yrs.	
Chester: Delaware County Times	337.87—4 yrs.	
Denver: Rocky Mountain News	†328.00—3 yrs.	
Portland Press Herald and Express	327.62—2 yrs.	
Royal Oak Tribune	322.21—1 yr.	
Bakersfield Californian	314.50—1 yr.	
Woonsocket Call	308.76—4 yrs.	
Pottstown Mercury	307.01—4 yrs.	
Salem (Mass.) News	304.22—3 yrs.	
Erie Times and News	295.58—3 yrs.	
Albany Times-Union and Knickerbocker News	†291.40—3 yrs.	
Great Falls Tribune	291.00—4 yrs.	
Oshawa Times	287.16—2 yrs.	
Fall River Herald-News	†281.62—2 yrs.	
Lowell Sun	†278.12—3 yrs.	
Malden News, Medford Mercury and Melrose News	276.00—2 yrs.	
Yakima Herald-Republic	271.25—4 yrs.	
Buffalo Evening News	270.05—2 yrs.	
Duluth News-Tribune & Herald	255.00—4 yrs.	
Pueblo Chieftain and Star-Journal	255.00—2 yrs.	
Sheboygan Press	†251.17—3 yrs.	
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'Nobody likes the man who brings bad news!'



British correspondent chides press for laughing off Reagan's gaffes

By Peter Pringle

TO AN ENGLISHMAN in this country, it is apparent that political humor is no laughing matter these days.

Anyone who wants to challenge Ronald Reagan in 1984 knows he has to have a barrel full of laughs if he is to keep the American press as happy as the president does with a mere dip of the head, a shy smile and a sense of timing honed by an earlier career in an only slightly different medium.

All of which puts the president at a considerable advantage. If the competition is going to be about who is more entertaining, or who can appear friendliest on TV, Reagan is the clear winner—a concert pianist in a field of amateurs playing their political spoons.

I often ask myself how this could happen, when there are so many serious issues to be discussed on which peace, prosperity and perhaps even the fate of the world hinge.

I HAVE TO conclude that one major reason is that the American press, which is supposed to play a key role in setting the agenda and being a public watchdog, has allowed it to happen. The American press gives Reagan an extraordinarily free run, allowing the White House to set the standards by which he is judged. The media have decided that jokes are an okay way of covering up his gaffes.

An example was the reaction of the American press to the Williamsburg summit conference last May. The big news of the summit was not that inflation was at an end or that budget deficits were no more, but that the president of the United States did not shoot himself in the foot.

The Washington Post quoted a White House aide as being pleased that the president had avoided a "disaster," while The New York Times said he had won "high marks" from other world leaders. Specifically, West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl said that Reagan had been "well prepared and well assisted and managed the whole thing with a sense of humor that helped a lot."

Reagan has always fed on the low expectations of him projected by others. One of the rare mem-

Peter Pringle is a Washington correspondent for the London Observer. This article is reprinted with Pringle's permission and somewhat abridged from the Washington Post.

bers of the Washington press to pick up this extraordinary knock is Richard Cohen, columnist of the Washington Post.

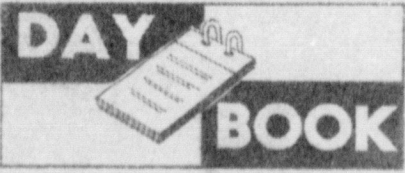
Recalling the coverage of Williamsburg, Cohen said: "You could not imagine the same open-mouthed wonder if, for instance, the subject at hand were Margaret Thatcher. . . . this president is treated by both the press and foreign leaders as if he were a child."

SO WHY have the wolves who dined almost daily on Jimmy Carter's flaps and flops suddenly fallen into a dog-like domesticity?

It is not that the press corps is unaware of the problem. Many of them feel used. Lou Cannon of the Washington Post admits the president is getting a fairer press than he deserves, but adds: "I care about him. I don't ever want to take a cheap shot at him."

Curtis Wilkie, a maverick from the Boston Globe, is less generous. "The operative word is 'ignorant'," he says. "He's lazy. He's not stupid. He's shrewd. He's a smart politician."

Wilkie wrote that the president is like a student who can memorize a poem one day and forget it the next. A man who dislikes reading and takes to the office with an ease not seen in decades, Reagan prefers to sit in his presidential quarters and watch an evening of shoot-em-up television shows.



Knight-Ridder Council, Oct. 7-9, Chicago (site to be announced).
Midwest District Council, fall meeting, Oct. 22-23, Holiday Inn, Kenosha, Wis.
International Executive Board, fall meeting, Oct. 24-27, Toronto
Great Lakes District Council, fall meeting, Nov. 5-6, Battle Creek.
Middle-Atlantic District Council, fall meeting, Nov. 5-6, New York.
Western District Council, fall meeting, Nov. 5-6, Bakersfield, Calif.
Southern District Council, fall meeting, Nov. 5-6, Washington.

REPORTERS SAY they cannot continuously write bad stories about Reagan because the public howls that they are picking on him, nice grandfatherly soul that he is.

Other journalists admit that, in a strange reverse subjectivity brought on by the push for journalistic ethics, they feel obliged to let Reagan manipulate the stories because the journalists themselves do not agree with him politically. It is one of the perils of America's rules of "objective journalism" that reporters trounce their soulmates while they treat their political enemies with kid gloves.

Pat Caddell, who was Carter's pollster says it has to do with "stylistics"—the president's performance. It also has to do with the skillful way in which Reagan's managers manipulate the press.

For example, the president has maintained he is not against women, blacks or poor people. And yet, when someone points out that his policies are hurting these groups, he can wonder out loud why all America's vast food resources should allow people to go hungry and then baldly appoint a commission to look into it.

Finally, there is the emerging media elite. Leading U.S. journalists have always been courted by politicians. Now journalists are one of the better-paid groups in Washington, and the top TV anchor jobs pay up to \$2 million a year.

WHERE IS ALL this leading? One obvious result is the emerging gap between the president as portrayed by newspapers and television and the political profile of the president, pollsters are picking up.

Pollster Caddell says: "If you do a whole study of public opinion polls, the only conclusion that you could possibly come to is that Ronald Reagan is very different from the person you read about. For two years he had the lowest rating of any president since Gallup started. He is the first president to fall behind major party opposition in the Gallup poll in his second year."

Such a gap does not bode well for the American public's understanding of their candidates in 1984.

As they put it

The AFL-CIO endorsement

An endorsement [of a political candidate by the AFL-CIO] is not a way of instructing people how they should vote.

Our [affiliated unions'] members are thoughtful, intelligent, given to making up their own minds and exercising the duties and privileges of citizenship without feeling the need for extraordinary guidance.

An endorsement is an act of internal governance.

It's the instruction that we get, as a federation, from our affiliates, speaking for their membership.

Without that, we are not empowered to do anything in the political arena. So we need such an action—which we call an endorsement—in order to bring the structure, resources and organization that we have to assure that working people participate in this political process to the maximum extent possible.

That consists of three essential undertakings:

- To assure that they are registered and qualified to vote. Now, that does not happen by simply issuing a declaration. It requires hard, grueling work . . . to find out where the areas of concentration need to be, to give people information as to where they go to register and to help them get there.

- We ought to do and we intend to do everything that we can to make certain that our [affiliates'] members have all the information about the records of the candidates and their positions on issues of concern to them before the election.

- We intend to do everything that we possibly can to see that our [affiliates'] members and their families participate and actually go to the polls and vote, as close to 100 percent as is humanly possible to do.

Those are all acts of good citizenship, and they are the essence of our political activity.

There is no pretense that one can have any assurance of what judgment a person makes when he enters the privacy of the polling place. Nor would we want it.

If we have a good candidate who can persuade working people of his concern for their well-being, we are quite confident that the union members and their families in this country will do the proper thing and vote in accordance with their characteristics. And their leading characteristic is that they are governed not only by selfish concerns, but by a deep and abiding concern for the well-being of their brothers and sisters, for their country, and for the less fortunate in life.

And I think this process is well served by maximum participation of working people.

—AFL-CIO President Lane Kirkland during a news conference Aug. 8 in Boston where the AFL-CIO Executive Council was meeting. During that meeting the council voted to move up from December to October the AFL-CIO's pre-primary presidential endorsement. It will be considered by the AFL-CIO General Board—the presidents of all affiliated national and international unions, trade and industrial departments and state and local central bodies—and then by the AFL-CIO Convention, to begin Oct. 3.

The Guild Reporter



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