

Boycott pushed in Consumers Union strike

Washington—All should join in a wide-ranging boycott of all publications and services of Consumers Union until the firm ends the strike against it by agreeing to an equitable new contract for its employees, TNG's International Executive Board declared Jan. 25. CU's best-known publication is Consumer Reports magazine.

Acting as the 140-member New York Guild unit at CU entered

its third week on strike, the IEB pointed out that the strike was forced by management's uncompromising insistence on achieving demands "that go to the heart" of the continued existence of the strikers' union.

In the three months of talks that preceded the strike, CU refused to bargain on any other provisions of the contract unless the Guild agreed that CU would

have unrestricted authority to create new contract-exempt positions and to assign Guild employees' work to exempt employees and subcontractors.

Noting that CU was founded 47 years ago by striking employees of Consumer Research magazine, the IEB called it "unthinkable that a publication established in affirmation of labor's rights should be allowed to contempt-

uously disregard them."

Consumers Union plans to operate during the strike with exempt employees, the IEB continued, "but neither we nor the consumers who are its constituency can accede to a union-busting Consumers Union."

In boycotting Consumers Union, the IEB specifically urged that:

✓ Subscriptions be cancelled

to Consumer Reports and Penny Power magazines and to the Advance Alert newsletter for consumer activists. [See coupon, Page 2.]

✓ CU's car-price reporting service not be utilized.

✓ Newspapers, broadcasters and cable systems be urged to discontinue use of CU features, spots announcements and films.

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'83 Broun Award goes to columnist at the Evening Sun

Washington — Dan Rodricks, columnist with the Baltimore Evening Sun, is the winner of TNG's 1983 Heywood Broun Award.

He was selected over 114 other contestants for his "sustained attention to the problems of ordinary men and women" in the "Street Talk" column he writes three times a week.

The award—\$1,000 to the winner and a citation to the winner's paper—was presented to Rodricks at a luncheon on Jan. 23, the opening day of the winter meeting of TNG's International Executive Board.

At the same time, honorable mention citations were announced to Bob Wyrick and Patrick Owens of Newsday and to Steve Konicki and Luisa Yanez of the Miami News.

Wyrick, who won the 1967 Broun Award, and Owens were cited for a series examining the hardships suffered by tens of thousands of persons who lost their Social Security pensions because of government cost-cutting efforts.

Konicki and Yanez were cited for a series exposing abuses by health clinics that were supposed

One of Dan Rodricks' Broun-Award-winning columns . . . 8

to be serving the needy in South Florida's Cuban communities.

Rodricks told guests at the luncheon that he considers the award "the greatest honor ever bestowed on me."

When notified by telephone earlier of his being selected for the award, Rodricks said he had just read the excerpts from Broun's columns of the '20s and '30s printed in the Jan. 13 Guild Reporter and was greatly pleased that his own were being honored with the award that carries Broun's name. "I'd hoped I'd win

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RAYMOND CROWELL/Washington-Baltimore Guild

WINNER RODRICKS, CENTER, MEETS THE JUDGES AT BROUN AWARD LUNCHEON
At left, UPI's Maxwell McCrohon; at right, National Public Radio's Susan Stamberg.

IEB to seek assessments for organizing

Washington—Moving to launch a vigorous new organizing program, TNG's International Executive Board is recommending that this year's Guild convention approve a pair of special assessments to finance it.

Proceeds from the proposed assessments — which would be levied this August and September

—would be used to hire additional staff to carry out the program.

The assessments would be collected on the same basis as higher Defense Fund dues. Those add amounts that range from \$2 to \$27.35 a month to members' dues under a constitutional formula that bases the amount on

each member's weekly compensation. To pay the latter amount a member would have to be earning \$895 or more per week.

The IEB acted unanimously Jan. 25 on the recommendation of its Finance and Organizing Committees, which had met in advance of the board's three-day winter meeting. During its fall meeting the board had directed the committees to jointly study how TNG's organizing efforts might be expanded and how such a program could be funded.

That direction came in the wake of the 1983 International Typographical Union Convention's rejection of the proposal for merger of the ITU and TNG and the dismantling of "what many hoped would be the launching platform for a united front for vigorous new organizing efforts," the board said.

Pointing to an upsurge in interest in Guild representation

among unorganized employees, the IEB said additional staff for organizing is necessary if the Guild is to "take advantage of the changing climate."

"Recent experiences demonstrate that more and more of the unorganized are ready to be organized by us. And we have no reason to expect anything other than more of the same," the board said, alluding to the nearly 550 newspaper employees in five groups who voted for Guild representation as 1983 drew to a close. [Guild Reporter, Jan. 13.]

This dramatic improvement in the organizing climate comes at a time when economic conditions are improving as the newspaper industry rebounds strongly from the recession, the board noted.

It also comes at a time when "a new and powerful element has injected itself into our organizing arena," the board warned, refer-

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Hamilton members okay 1st pact

Hamilton, Ont.—Guild members in the Hamilton Spectator's editorial department have ratified an initial contract that raises their pay by more than 6 percent this year and by more than 7 percent next year and establishes severance-pay and other protections against unjustified dismissals.

The two-year Southern Ontario Guild agreement, signed Jan. 19, covers some 110 employees in

the 147,000-circulation Southam-chain daily's newsroom.

It sets the top minimum for reporters and photographers at \$639 a week retroactive to the first week in November, rising by \$46 next Jan. 1, to \$685 a week.

The minimum for starting reporters and photographers is set at \$442 a week, also retroactive, increasing by \$32 next Jan. 1, to \$474 a week.

The Southern Ontario Guild

was certified by the Ontario Labour Relations Board as the employees' bargaining representative last February after a substantial majority signed membership-application cards.

Job security was the greatest impetus to the group's organizing, a Guild representative reported, pointing out that many key-level employees already were paid at rates comparable to Guild mini-

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Proposal to merge ITU, Teamsters nearly complete

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What happens when Thomson takes over —editor reports

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IEB enacts a policy on endorsements of political candidates

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Eugene's Stahlberg wins service prize, tops field of nine

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Sun columnist Rodricks wins 1983 Broun Award

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that award some day," he said.

Rodricks is only the second columnist to win the Broun Award in its 43-year existence. [The first was Mike Royko, in 1968, then of the Chicago Daily News.]

This year's Broun Award judges said Rodrick, through his columns, "with compassion and restraint, with humor and understanding, . . . introduces his readers to people made needy by shifting economic and political circumstances."

"He tells their stories with care, kindness and a spirit of intelligent concern that echoes and extends the journalistic contribution of Heywood Broun," the judges continued.

Broun's column "virtually introduced the daily column of compassion and understanding" to journalism, the judges pointed out, adding that his spirit "has helped inspire a generation of journalists" while his union, TNG, through the award "strives to lift the standards in communications in tribute to him," its founding president.

TNG makes the Broun Award annually for outstanding individual journalistic achievement in Broun's spirit, which was distinguished by an unceasing devotion to the public interest and an abiding concern for the underdog.

One of the judges, Susan Stamborg, co-host of National Public

Radio's "All Things Considered" news program, said all three judges had been deeply impressed that there were "so many really first-rate examples of journalism" among the contest entries, and said the characterization applies to entries from small publications as well as the large ones.

Another of the judges, Richard T. Stout, director of American University's graduate journalism program, read the first seven paragraphs from one of Rodricks' winning columns to the 60 persons attending the luncheon. [See Page 8 for the full text of the column Stout read from.]

The third judge, Maxwell McCrohon, United Press International's new editor-in-chief, noted that the journalistic standards exhibited by a great number of the contest entries were "incredibly high" and that the competition had been "astoundingly close."

Rodricks, a member of the Washington-Baltimore Guild unit at the Sunpapers and one of his local's delegates to the 1979 TNG Convention, was accompanied to the award luncheon by the Evening Sun's managing editor, John M. Lemmon, a former president of the Washington Guild.

Tribute paid Guild contract results

Washington—"Now, thanks to the Guild," people can afford to work for the industry someone once called "the only place you can have so much fun for so little money," this year's Broun Award luncheon guests were reminded.

The reminder came from the chairperson of this year's Broun Award competition, Peter Kihss, the veteran reporter who retired from the New York Times in 1982.

Kihss, who has been a Guild member since 1934, also recalled that he and Broun both worked for the old New York World-Telegram in the Guild's first days and that they found themselves on opposite sides in the first Guild strike vote at that paper.

"He was for it. I was against it. I won," Kihss said, adding: A strike would have been suicide."

General Fund's 'cushion' declines to \$88,400

Washington—TNG's operating costs exceeded income to the union's General Fund by \$24,040 in the third quarter of the current fiscal year, reducing a "cushion" accumulated during the first six months to \$88,405, the International Executive Board's Finance Committee reported during the board's winter meeting.

General (operating) Fund expenses during the October-December quarter totaled \$744,621, up some \$15,000 from the second quarter. Income for the third quarter was \$720,581, about \$70,000 less than second-quarter income.

The third quarter was the first in the fiscal year in which the flow of cash from the General Fund was greater than that com-

ing in. In the first quarter of the year the General Fund had a gain of \$49,803. In the second quarter it had a gain of \$62,719.

Defense Fund income for the third quarter, meanwhile, exceeded expenses for the second quarter in a row. As the third quarter ended Dec. 31, the Defense Fund's net worth stood at \$5,309,198, a gain of \$41,771 for the period.

The Defense Fund's sole liability—a debt to the General Fund principally for the cost of salaries and expenses of TNG staff assigned to strikes and lockouts—was reduced by nearly one-third during the quarter, to \$65,034.

The IEB approved a fourth quarter operating budget of \$771,123, which is \$26,502 higher than

third quarter expenses and includes \$10,000 for moving expenses. One-time costs attendant to a move to TNG's headquarters will occur in the final quarter of the year but "cannot be precisely quantified at this time," the

finance committee reported.

TNG is moving its offices from the eight to the fifth floor of the office building owned by the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers in downtown Washington.

IEB asks organizing levy

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ring to pronouncements by Teamsters President Jackie Presser that his union will launch a drive to organize the "tremendous amount of unorganized" employees in the printing industry.

The Teamsters will launch its publishing industry campaign whether or not the ITU accepts its offer to become "part of the Teamsters family," Presser told the ITU convention in August. Formal Teamsters-ITU merger talks began soon after the convention and appear close to conclusion. [See story, Page 7.]

The board explained that its proposal for an expanded organizing program is designed to equip TNG to respond both to the changing organizing climate and to the "unusual opportunities which may present themselves," as well as to ensure "a presence in any organizing confrontation" with other unions which might seek to represent employees in the Guild's traditional jurisdiction.

The IEB also noted that if events require augmenting TNG's staff for organizing purposes before additional revenue from the special assessments is available, TNG's president and secretary-

treasurer could authorize "emergency loans" after consulting with the IEB and receiving its approval.

It was estimated that the two assessments will generate approximately \$740,000 in additional income which would cover the costs of employing four international representatives for two years, or eight for one year.

Windsor petition seeks new group

Windsor, Ont.—The Windsor Guild has petitioned the Ontario Labour Relations Board to certify it as bargaining representative for the 31 circulation department employees of Southam's Windsor Star.

The local said its Jan. 16 application is supported by membership applications from a substantial majority of the paper's inside and outside circulation employees.

The Guild has represented the paper's 100-plus editorial department employees since October 1982 and has been bargaining with the company on the terms of an initial contract covering them.



CONSUMERS UNION STRIKERS BRAVE THE ELEMENTS OUTSIDE MT. VERNON PLANT

New York Guild unit struck Jan. 9 after efforts to bargain a new contract with the publisher of Consumer Reports were frustrated.

Consumers Union boycott is endorsed

(Continued from Page 1)

Financial support of CU legal advocacy offices, located in several cities, be cut off.

In addition, the IEB directed TNG President Charles A. Perlik, Jr., to seek endorsements of the boycott by the AFL-CIO and the Canadian Labour Congress to "bring the pressure of the entire labor movement to bear upon the Union that would crush a union."

The New York Guild, meantime, reported that from the start of the strike on Jan. 9 management has refused to agree to meet with the Guild.

Ralph Petrucci, chairperson of the strikers' Guild unit, pointed out that management and exempt personnel would have little difficulty publishing Consumer Reports issues in each of the first four months of 1984 since most of the material for each was "in the bank" when CU's Guild-member employees struck.

Management's bargaining-table attitude—including its unilateral declaration that talks had reached impasse and its implementation of its contract demands upon expiration of the Guild's former contract at the end of 1983—

have convinced strikers the company will try to publish despite the strike, he added.

"As long as Consumers Union refuses to agree to a fair contract for its employees," Petrucci said, "those employees—many of whom are responsible for Consumer Reports' testing and rating of various products—can only let the public know that CU's management comes up 'not acceptable' by their magazine's own criteria. We expect subscribers will react to that rating as they have been doing for the last 47 years."

CLIP & MAIL

Rhoda Karpatkin, executive director
Consumers Union, Inc.
256 Washington St.
Mount Vernon, N.Y. 10553

Because Consumers Union, Inc., is being struck by its employees represented by the Newspaper Guild of New York in their quest for a fair and equitable new contract to govern the terms and conditions of their employment, you are hereby directed to cancel immediately my subscription(s) to [strike any title which does not apply] Consumer Reports magazine, Penny Power magazine and the Advance Alert newsletter and refund immediately to me the unused portion of my subscription price.

I will renew the subscription(s) after the Guild and Consumers Union have concluded a new contract and the Guild has ended its strike against Consumers Union.

Enclosed is one mailing label from each Consumers Union publication to which I have a subscription.

(Name)

(Address)

(City & State/Province)

CLIP & MAIL

Avoid distractions, IEB cautions on Grenada inquiries

Washington—Inquiries into the Reagan administration's "blockade" of the press from first-hand coverage of the first days of the Grenada invasion must focus on the fact that the diverse press, not the univocal government, serves as the public's eyes and ears, TNG's International Executive Board declared Jan. 23.

Warning of danger that this "principal point" may be "lost in a welter of words" or "buried in bickering over secondary issues," the IEB, called for a "ringing affirmation from the government" that an "outrage" like Grenada will not be repeated. [See: 'No more Grenadas,' Page 8.]

With the press "under blockade" on Barbados, the public's perception of the invasion was "shaped exclusively by the government in those first crucial days" while the press "was made to appear the guilty party," the IEB pointed out.

"None of the lame excuses offered to justify the administration's policy of concealment merit reply," the IEB declared in a statement adopted with opposition from but one of its 15 members in attendance on the opening day of its winter meeting.

Vice President David M. Mulcahy of New York asked to be recorded as "opposing the thrust of the motion" to approve the statement.

Earlier, during discussion of his unsuccessful motion to delete sentences labeling the action "an outrage" and declaring that "it must not be repeated," Mulcahy charged that the statement "ought to limit itself to the press" and that it was "based on incorrect premises." Mulcahy is the board's sole Republican.

Vice President Roger L. Stonebanks of Victoria said before the board voted on the statement

that while he supported it he thought it did not go far enough. "It ought to oppose the invasion as such," he said, pointing to the IEB at its fall meeting endorsing a demonstration and lobbying effort planned for March against U.S. military involvement in Central America.

Meanwhile, on Jan. 17 a five-member ad-hoc committee of newspaper and television management representatives met for a half hour at the White House with seven members of Reagan's staff, including James Baker, chief of staff, Michael Deaver, deputy chief of staff, and Larry Speakes, deputy press secretary.

Jerry Friedheim, executive vice president of the American Newspaper Publishers Assn., described the meeting as "very cordial" and "useful," according to Editor & Publisher magazine.

He noted, however, that some members of a larger committee of representatives of ten press groups believe that the right to cover an event like the Grenada invasion is absolute and that discussing coverage guidelines with the government sets bad precedent.

The larger committee on Jan. 10 issued a statement calling for the "highest civilian and military officers of the government" to reaffirm their recognition that the press has both historic and First Amendment rights to cover U.S. troops in combat.

The statement was issued by representatives of the ANPA, the ASNE, United Press Int'l, Associated Press, the Radio & Television News Directors Assn., the American Society of Magazine Editors, the National Assn. of Broadcasters, the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press, the Associated Press Managing Editors and the Society of Professional Journalists, Sigma Delta Chi.



St. Louis Civic Award

Sister Agnes Baer, winner of the St. Louis Guild's annual Page One Civic Award, is congratulated by TNG President Charles A. Perlik, Jr., right, and St. Louis Guild President Robert C. Holt, Jr. Baer was given the award in recognition of her work in helping prosti-

tutes build new lives. As director of the St. Louis archdiocese's New Lifestyle Program, Baer has offered financial aid and counsel to help prostitutes overcome problems and prepare for new careers. She is a former teacher. The program is in its sixth year.

Political-endorsement policy set

Washington — The sentiments of Guild members must be assessed before TNG officers "on behalf of the union" endorse any partisan political candidate under a policy adopted by the Guild's International Executive Board.

Recommended by the board's Research and Information Committee, the policy was approved Jan. 25 after an amendment that would have required approval of endorsements by membership referendum was defeated 13 to 2 in a roll-call vote.

Offered by Vice President Larry D. Hatfield of San Francisco-Oakland, endorsement referendums under the rejected proposal would be among members in the country involved.

The amendment was defeated and the policy adopted without discussion of the substance of either.

Voting for the amendment were Hatfield and Vice President Roger L. Stonebanks of Victoria.

Voting against the amendment were: Int'l Chairperson Harry S. Culver, President Charles A. Perlik, Jr., Secretary-Treasurer Charles Dale and Vice Presidents Robert C. Holt, Jr., of St. Louis, Carol D. McGarvey of Philadelphia, David M. Mulcahy of New York, Marie D. Sherlock of Youngstown, Stanley Souza of Hawaii, Thomas R. Hiltz of Boston, Faye McCracken of Memphis, Richard M. Peery of Cleveland, Peter E. McLaughlin of New York and Lee C. Clifford of Eastern Canada.

Vice President William T. Davis of San Jose was excused from the meeting because of pressing business in his local.

Both the committee recommendation and Hatfield's proposal were the result of member reaction to TNG representatives having voted in favor of the AFL-CIO's pre-primary endorsement of Walter F. Mondale to be the Democratic Party's presidential nominee.

TNG's delegates to the AFL-CIO's October convention and the general board meeting that preceded it voted for the Mondale endorsement under authority voted by the IEB in a mail poll.

While reaction to the Guild's participation in the endorsement has been mixed, much of the criticism has centered on the absence of a membership "poll."

Guild representatives' partici-

pation in the AFL-CIO's endorsement process during the 1976 and 1980 presidential campaigns brought virtually no membership reaction, positive or negative. The IEB's convention-authorized endorsement of Democratic presidential candidate George McGovern in 1972, however, brought loud objections from some members and lively debate but resulted in no policy action.

In a joint statement read into the record after the votes on the endorsement policy, Stonebanks and Hatfield said that they had voted against the policy recommended by the committee because they consider it "a sham."

"Past and present partisan political endorsements have caused unnecessary internal dissension within the Guild and have offered minimal, if any, advantage to the candidates favored," they said.

"It is simply not worth it. We believe that once again Guild leadership is out of step with the rank and file," it continued.

"The majority of the IEB have left us no choice but to go to the membership," the pair concluded.

After the meeting Hatfield said he and Stonebanks were "not sure when or how" they would "go to the membership."

Perlik said after the meeting that he is ordering immediate preparation of a position paper on the issue covering both its history and its justification.

SCHOLARSHIP TO EUGENE LEADER

Stahlberg wins award for service

Washington — Mike Stahlberg, treasurer of the Eugene (Ore.) Guild, has been named winner of this year's Guild Service Award.

The award is made annually for outstanding service to the Guild at the local level and carries a scholarship of up to \$1,500 for a union education course.

Stahlberg's selection, from a total of nine nominees from as many locals, was announced during the winter meeting of TNG's International Executive Board. Judges were TNG Vice Presidents Larry D. Hatfield of San Francisco-Oakland and Thomas R. Hiltz of Boston, plus Ellis T. Baker, TNG director of administrative operations.

In nominating Stahlberg for the award other members of the

Eugene Guild's executive committee cited his work in building local membership, bargaining and administering the local's contract with the Register-Guard and building interunion co-operation.

In his 14 years as a reporter at the paper he has held "virtually every local office" and always has been involved; "during the last three years, in particular, he has darn near carried us," the nomination said.

Stahlberg was a leader in the formation of a unity council with the Eugene Typographical Union and was a "big factor" in implementing and carrying out Guild-ITU joint bargaining for new contracts with the company, the executive committee said.

An accompanying letter from Eugene Typographical Union President Jim Corbett endorsed Stahlberg's nomination for the award on the strength of his assistance to the ITU local in bargaining and in researching and successfully presenting the case for improvements in the printers' pensions.

As a Guild bargaining committee member, Stahlberg "was instrumental in achieving whatever modest gains were made in an extremely bleak negotiating climate" and in maintaining crucial items such as company-paid health insurance. Without his detailed research and presentation, a narrowing of the percentage gap between inside and outside sales minimums "would not have been achieved," the nomination said.

From pension programs to health insurance coverage to commissions, "no one here knows our contract better, can explain it more clearly or defend it more effectively," the executive committee added.

Much of the growth in local membership "from fewer than 20 paying members to a considerably healthier and stronger position" is due largely to his signing up members in the commercial departments, it said.

Stahlberg is a frequent delegate to the Western District Council of Guild locals and was a delegate to TNG's 1982 Convention.

U.S. probes Press closing

Washington—In the wake of reports that Samuel I. Newhouse, Jr., owner of the Cleveland Plain Dealer, agreed to pay Cleveland Press owner Joseph E. Cole \$14.5 million shortly before Cole closed his paper, the Justice Dept. has opened an investigation into the possibility of antitrust violations.

Shortly after the Press was closed in June 1982 the Justice Dept. received allegations about possible antitrust violations associated with the paper's closure but no extensive investigation was conducted because there was "no relief" to be obtained since the paper had been closed, officials said.

The latest interest was trig-

gered by reports in the Akron Beacon Journal that Newhouse agreed to pay Cole \$14.5 million for the Press' circulation list a week before it was closed. The reports were based in part on a suit filed in federal court by former Press printers alleging antitrust violations.

An attorney for Newhouse has acknowledged that Newhouse paid for the Press' subscription list, while an attorney for the printers charges that an excessive amount was paid for the subscription list which was "virtually in the telephone book," the Washington Post reported.

The suit alleges that Newhouse agreed to pay "in excess of \$6 million" for the subscription list.

By Bruce B. VanDusen

When Thomson 'takes over'—an (ex)editor remembers

RIGHT OFF, let me explain that I was asked to resign from the Kokomo Tribune, a 29,500-circulation Indiana daily. I had been the editor two years when it was sold to Thomson Newspapers, Inc., the eighty-five newspaper American subsidiary of the Canadian chain. After Thomson bought it in August, 1981, I stayed for another year. In August, 1982, a new publisher was named and within a month I was ushered out with some nice words about my professionalism and a decent severance arrangement. Since I was not replaced, the company saved the cost of my salary.

I am writing because Americans ought to know more about how their newspapers are run. This is particularly true when foreign and highly secretive firms are moving aggressively into control of many U.S. markets, sending their profits not only out of the communities they claim to serve, but out of the country as well. It's even more true when chain ownership downgrades the quality of the news product.

I am not in any position to draw grand conclusions about the Thomson organization, or chain ownership in general. But I can tell anyone who cares what really happened in the newsroom when Thomson took over one fairly typical, family-owned daily in Indiana.

The Tribune was owned by a 23-member partnership. The partners were heirs of a man who took over the paper in 1897. Only a handful of them lived in Kokomo or had a strong personal interest in the paper when they put it up for sale in late 1980. When Thomson came along, offering a substantially higher cash price than two other serious bidders, the deal was made. Some partners were concerned about Thomson's reputation in the industry, but their doubts were set aside by repeated public and private assurances from Thomson officials that "there will be no change in policies or personnel."

On Friday, August 21, 1981, three days after the sale closed, some key Tribune people were asked to meet with three Thomson representatives: Margaret L. Hamilton, president of Thomson Newspapers, Ltd., St. Clair McCabe, president of Thomson Newspapers, Inc., and Frank C. Miles, general manager under McCabe. (Hamilton has since resigned following her marriage to McCabe. McCabe has taken her position, and Miles has taken McCabe's.)

The purpose of the meeting was to demonstrate their concern for our interests and to ease our minds. Present from the Tribune were Kent Blackledge, publisher, Richard D. Isham, general manager, Richard Pickering, promotion director, John Hoffman, advertising manager, Alan Harnish, production manager, and myself. By early 1983, all of these people had resigned.

We soon discovered the reassuring statements made at that meeting by Thomson officials were rampant with deception. McCabe, for example, was at pains to deny Thomson operated a "chain" of newspapers. "We're a group of newspapers—a loose-knit federation of individual newspapers," he insisted.

Later we discovered our performance in virtually every area would be measured and monitored by our divisional vice president, Donald P. Hicks, in Canton, Ohio. Deviations from established norms would be met with corrective orders to the local publisher. An annual spending "pattern," setting forth every anticipated expense, was

developed in Kokomo for approval by Canton. No purchase that exceeded the "pattern" by more than \$100 could be made without approval by Canton.

Thomson insisted we use a portion of our revenue to pay for the Thomson Washington bureau, even though it was of no value to us. They refused to let us contract for our own Washington coverage. The decision to drop several Sunday comics and replace them with others was made by Miles, without any local consultation. Soon after the sale, Hicks ordered us not to fill any vacancy without his permission. This set the stage for a deliberate series of reductions in every department, all ordered by divisional officers. I was told if local editors continually resist Thomson "recommendations," they are replaced. If these are the marks of a "loose-knit federation," what, pray tell, is a chain?

CRITICISM of Thomson operations in Canada had found its way to Kokomo, so I pressed McCabe on his public statement that there would be no change in Tribune policies. He put his hand on my shoulder and told me, "You'll be surprised how little difference there will be." I was surprised all right, and I now offer this advice to others: Do not believe any such statements.

Another whopper I remember from that first meeting came from Hamilton, who told us about Thomson consultants. Qualified professionals in production, finance, advertising, news and circulation were available, she said, to give us all sorts of help. We need only ask and they'd come. They would not be forced upon us. We were not required to take their advice.

She was as forthright as Lady Macbeth. As it developed, the consultants came to Kokomo without invitation from the local publisher. Our news consultant was Paul H. Miller, a perfectly nice fellow from Canton, who first visited us for two days in November, 1981. He spent most of his time learning which staffers did what, counting published news stories, trying to gauge the morale of the newsroom, and explaining the quarterly reports he used to evaluate our work. He had virtually nothing to offer us, even though I specifically sought his help with some readership research.

After that visit, I told Richard Isham, the former general manager who by that time had replaced Blackledge as publisher, that I felt there was no further need for Miller. Isham informed me the consultants would be coming whether or not he or I wanted them. It became perfectly clear, after several months and after checking with other department heads who dealt with other consultants, that these people performed one basic function: They gathered information to be used by divisional vice presidents to force changes in local operations.

AFTER MANY years of running a lot of newspapers, Thomson has learned a thing or two about how to do it profitably. They have developed desirable production patterns, efficiency ratios, and staffing guidelines for every aspect of the business. Thomson consultants arrive to ask questions, observe work procedures, time this and evaluate that, and report back to their regional superior. They do report their findings to the local publisher, but re-

main neutral in their relationship with him. The real force for compliance with Thomson norms comes from the divisional vice president.

Another display of Thomson integrity involved our Tribune radio communication system. Our previous owners liked modern equipment, so our advertising, circulation and news departments used two-way radio communication to good advantage.

One day Isham issued the order to dismantle the system and turn in all radio equipment. He said he had been told by his Thomson superiors that, as a foreign-owned company, Thomson could not operate a radio transmitter in the United States. Annoyed and in disbelief, we double-checked with the Federal Communications Commission. We learned the claim was baseless, that only agents of a foreign power are prohibited from operating radios.

I reported this to Isham, who then admitted the falsehood. He said Thomson simply wanted to save the expense of insuring and maintaining the equipment.

From that point on, the news department greeted all Thomson dicta with the assumption of some kind of misrepresentation.

Thomson newspapers share a number of physical similarities. Most are designed with an eight-column format (some use six columns on page one), have small body type, small photographs, a vertical makeup, and scant evidence of concern for design or organization. Long stories are rare. Instead they print as many items as will fit. News briefs are everywhere. Man-in-the-street interviews are common and club news often is on Page One.

When we got a look at samples of other Thomson newspapers, the newsroom groaned. About four years earlier we had redesigned our paper under the guidance of Edmund Arnold of Syracuse University. We had gone to a six-column format, downstyle typography, and new column headers to give an open, horizontal, modern look. The plan was based on reader research and we knew our community liked it. The thought that we might have to turn the clock back to look like other Thomson papers appalled us all.

EVEN THE TWO Thomson consultants with whom I shared my opinion admitted their belief that most Thomson papers are unattractive. But, they countered, those papers make lots of money. So did the Tribune before it was sold, we explained. But not nearly as much as it should, was their closing argument.

From the very first, Isham told me, Hicks pressured him for changes in design. He did not order them, but at every opportunity ridiculed the six-column format, large pictures, horizontal look, and bold section headers. It added up to wasted space, he argued.

The main problem was story count. By comparison with other Thomson papers our size in the Canton division (Marion, Zanesville, Steubenville, Middletown, and Newark, Ohio), we were running too few stories. Thomson management believes there is a direct relationship between the number of local stories in a paper and the paper's success. They are pleased when the number of local stories per column inch of news reaches a certain level. They are happier still when the number of local stories per news staffer reaches a certain level.

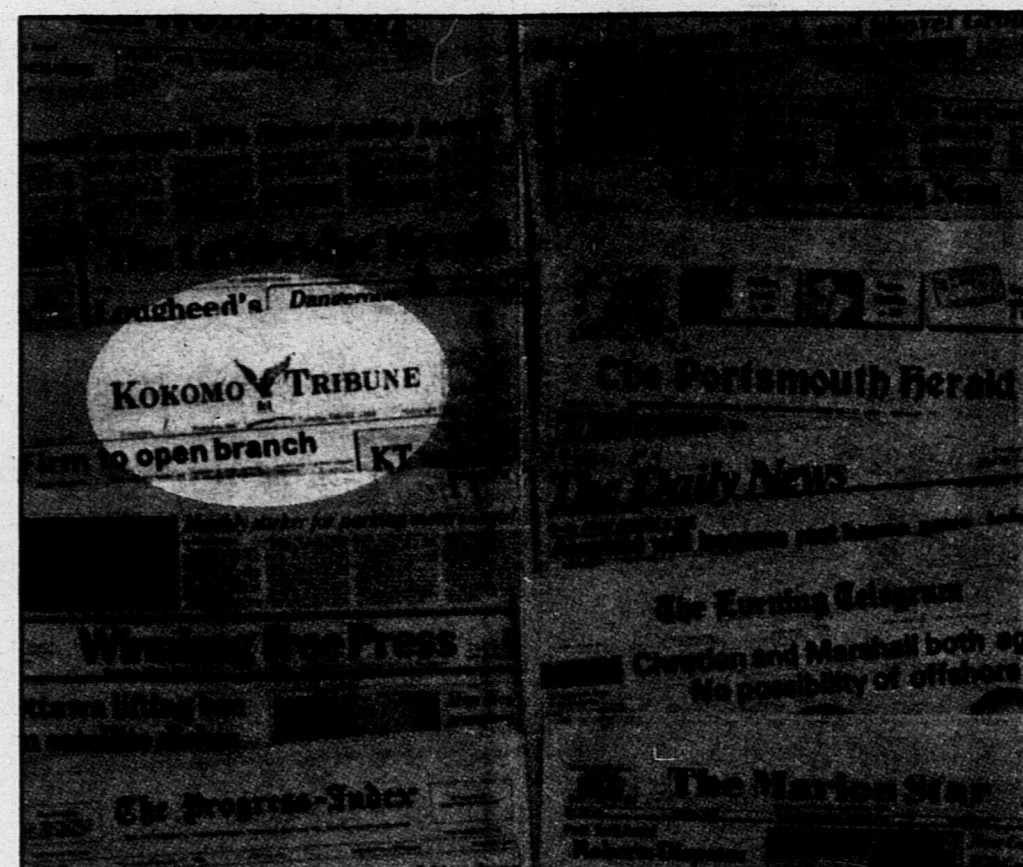
I do not know what those levels are. Thomson consultants and executives never would say. To do so would be to set a company guideline, which would be telling us what to do. They wanted no evidence of doing that. Instead, they told us our ratios were

badly out of phase with comparable papers in our "group." Then they directed us to do something about it.

After a close first look at our story and picture count, Miller reported 64.3 local stories per day (47.3% of all stories) and 14.3 local photos per day (65.5% of all pictures). This meant 2.0 stories and .42 photos per staffer per day, numbers he called our "staff efficiency ratios." By comparison, five similar papers in our division averaged 119.6 local stories and 19.4 local pictures per day. Their efficiency ratios were 7.7 stories and 1.2 photos per staffer.

Miller and Hicks made it clear that improvement was necessary. Isham wrote me: "... whether you like it or I like it no longer matters. I have been instructed to get the problem solved. ... We are going to put out the product they want or changes will be made. It's that simple."

THOMSON'S FIXATION with numbers and ratios ran counter to my entire training as a newsman. Suddenly we were being told quantity of local stories was equal to quality of coverage. Thomson did not seem to care



KOKOMO TRIBUNE AMONG THOMSON PAPERS PICTURED IN '82 REPORT

what we were reporting—only how many stories and headlines we produced.

It is easy to increase story count. You break up one city council report into five. You write a separate on every police event, instead of one which wraps up the day's events. You use every self-serving press release that comes along. You start reporting the false fire alarms and routine ambulance runs you used to ignore. You keep a reporter on the phone writing a dozen church and club news items rather than send her to a three-hour zoning hearing.

It's the same with pictures: more head and shoulder shots; reduce photo size and use more. Begin using dull check-passing or ribbon-cutting photos. Make the photographers work faster, telling them not to worry so much about getting just the right shot.

So, under clear instructions now, we did some of those things. Six months later Miller could praise us because our local story count was up to 85.0, and local picture count to 18.6—better, but still below average. Worse, our staff efficiency ratio was only 3.1 stories per staffer per day, compared to an average of 6.9.

The effects of this pressure were not all bad. We did begin to pay closer attention to local organizations and get their news into the paper. We did

tighten up on our wordier writers. We did say "yes" to some legitimate photo requests to which we had said "no" before. The demand for more local stories, more news briefs, and more pictures in the same space all had beneficial impact. We covered our primary market more closely.

But for us to meet the ratios the Miller memos suggested were desirable required actions which, in my view at least, would have downgraded the entire product. It would mean eliminating our universal copy desk, making some copy editors into reporters, and pushing more hastily read copy into the system. It would mean eliminating our Action Line, a time-consuming but valuable service. It would mean abandoning the six-column format and reducing type size, a return to the old days of bad design. It would mean using college-educated writers to produce a busy, newsy-looking paper which, on close examination, would contain more fluff and superficial reporting. We saw all that reflected in other Thomson papers.

In the first year of Thomson ownership, the news staff dropped from twenty-nine to twenty-three persons;

cost of sloppy-looking work and many more errors.

As a part of that layoff move, more production work was thrust upon the newsroom. A terminal capable of setting box scores was moved from composing to the sports department and reporters began doing that work—at an increase in pay, of course. Most hard copy, previously put into the system by union typesetters, now was typed in by a minimum-wage news clerk.

IN DECEMBER, 1981, Miller wrote us: "... we have no sets of guidelines to say a Thomson paper shall editorially do thus or so. However, many of the things we talk about and recommend are proven factors." In January, 1982, he added: "We recommend fifteen or more" stories on the front page.

Why? I asked. Does Thomson have any evidence that a high Page-One story count is preferred by readers or produces better penetration of the market? If so, I said, count me as a convert and, even though it makes the page more difficult to read, I will champion the cause. My own publisher tried to answer that question, even asking the research people at the American Newspaper Publishers Assn. for help. Neither they nor we could find anything to show it was, as Miller claimed, "a proven factor."

Finally, after repeated requests to demonstrate any proven value to the high story count "recommendation," Hicks admitted there was no evidence. But he wanted it just the same. So, we swallowed hard and did it.

To their credit, Thomson executives never once suggested to us what our editorial position should or should not be. That was up to the local publisher. They did strongly recommend the opinion page carry a daily editorial about some local issue, and their entire emphasis was to insure that at least half of the news package in all departments was local. No one, I think, could argue with those goals. But they were more than goals. If the ratios and percentages on the quarterly reports did not show compliance with "recommendations," the publisher was told to shape up.

Thomson executives had no such scruples about guiding news coverage. In particular, they don't want a lot of news about television in their papers. When a member paper used a wire story about CBS lengthening its evening news, the December, 1981, "Newsbeat" memo, circulated monthly to all managing editors, exploded: "... Too many of our papers still are bowing down to television and helping TV hit us over the head." There followed five paragraphs of strong advice to carry the obligatory program listings and the like, but very little else. But, when another paper conducted a quickie survey and published results showing that only half of those contacted could recall a single ad on the 1982 Super Bowl telecast, "Newsbeat" cheered. The publisher responsible for that story was lionized.

In these and virtually all other affairs, Thomson management seeks to be invisible to local people. The hope is that everyone in Kokomo be-

lieves the paper is a local institution run by local people, with Kokomo's interest at heart. Mention of the name Thomson in the paper is discouraged. While Hamilton told me there would be no attempt to influence our reporters' coverage of Thomson itself, there was. When we reported the composing room layoffs, our publisher insisted on altering direct quotes he had made to our reporter. He was displeased when we reported Thomson's \$99-million profit in 1981 and noted our paper was part of the group. He had been told it is best if Thomson's name is never mentioned, except as required once a year by postal regulations.

One morning Hicks telephoned Isham and ordered him to have his name and title as publisher installed that very day on the editorial page. He said it was needed to reinforce the idea of local autonomy.

FROM THE moment we learned Thomson had bought the Kokomo paper, there was great anxiety. Eugene S. Pulliam, publisher of the nearby Indianapolis Star, underscored it with a signed editorial which lamented the sale and said that "Thomson is known as being more concerned with profits than with product." Soon we were told by Isham (who told us much more than his superiors would have liked) that Hicks regarded the Tribune as overstaffed and overpaid from top to bottom. We knew our salaries were close to the averages available through the Inland Daily Press Assn., but the statement was an accurate forecast of things to come. Younger staffers got their small, ten- to fifteen-dollar per week raises, but those at the higher end of the scale were by-passed. One after another, six department heads resigned—either under pressure or voluntarily—and were not replaced. Every department felt major staff reductions. The resulting payroll savings were large.

Then came an odd order. We were told that direct contact with people at other Thomson newspapers was forbidden. Not realizing how strictly this order was meant, I wrote to Thomson editors in several other cities asking them for copies of their papers so I could see what sort of product Thomson published. The results were instructive; some didn't answer, while others did. The Canton editor crisply advised me to make my request through my news consultant. And my own publisher, learning of my letters, reminded me of the directive. Any and all communication must be through the publisher, I was told.

The reason soon became clear. We newspeople, normally a nosy lot, now would be unable to compare notes about policies, salaries, benefits, expenses, staffing or anything else. The order meant, for example, that most Thomson papers would remain unaware of the superior computer equipment we had in Kokomo and therefore would reduce pressure from them for modernization. Or that workers in Zanesville, Ohio, would not learn of our free parking arrangements while they had to pay to use the company lot. Or that I could not share my frustrations about the Thomson Washington bureau with my fellow editors and

thus generate demand for improvement.

THOMSON executives expected us to be grateful for the wonderful new service their Washington bureau was expected to provide. At the time, Thomson owned seventy-four dailies and had a five-person staff in Washington. One was assigned to the Great Lakes area, serving about twenty-five papers. Having been a Washington correspondent for the Journal-Bulletin in Providence, I was not impressed by this level of staffing and said so. I was told not to judge too quickly.

At that time, we subscribed to the States News Service, which assigned one person to Indiana who served four client papers. They gave excellent service, high-quality reporting, and delivered copy into our system by means of AP Datafeature. By contrast, Thomson mailed most of its copy, thus giving us three-day-old news which we then had to input. Even when we used our Telecopier, we found SNS and the AP almost always served us better.

There was nothing I could do. Our "loose-knit federation" required us to pay our share of the bureau's cost whether we used it or not. After a year's evaluation, I found their staff turnover high and day-to-day reporting shallow. They gave us decent "think pieces" occasionally, but rarely did these have local interest. Perhaps the editor of the typical ten-thousand-circulation Thomson paper was pleased, although in 1981 eighteen percent of them didn't send even one query to the bureau. Having had firsthand knowledge of alternatives, I was unimpressed. It was no surprise, however, when the Canton office, demonstrating Kokomo's true autonomy, cut money for SNS out of Kokomo's 1983 budget. The thinking was, as with the radios, that if other Thomson papers could survive without SNS, so could Kokomo.

Nowhere was the skintight Thomson attitude more obvious than in the area of staff training. Sending a reporter off for a week or ten days to a seminar at the American Press Institute or Southeastern Newspaper Publishers Assn. was unthinkable. A one-day meeting of the state press association was fine, but otherwise the travelling "consultant" or managing editor was expected to handle training.

Unless the busy managing editor can make time for it, the only training that occurs comes in the form of the monthly "Newsbeat" memo. It regularly lists news and photo ideas from other Thomson papers. It offers miscellaneous suggestions on how to improve graphics, stringer reporting, women's pages and so on. Not bad, but no substitute for getting away to an intensive seminar or a structured in-house program.

THOMSON Newspapers, Inc. thus is producing newspeople whose focus is on productivity first, with quality a distant and poorly defined second. The productivity fixation discourages investigative pieces or thoughtful analyses. Thomson newspeople are deliberately isolated, not only from the rest of the industry, but even from one another. The divisional vice presidents, alerted to problems by their travelling agents, make the key decisions and order local publishers to produce the desired results.

Constantly working with a skeleton staff, constantly urged to boost the story and picture counts, denied the research needed to make wise choices and the money needed for training, never encouraged to care about design, Thomson news executives need little imagination and no independence. What they do need is a strong devotion to the newspaper business—strong enough to be satisfied with the sort of product Thomson wants. And they must find ways to accommodate themselves and their standards to owners who define newspapers solely in terms of financial profit.

Two Thomson publishers challenge article

The publishers of two of the Thomson chain's U.S. dailies, in lengthy letters published in the November issue of the Quill, challenged the accuracy of this article as published in the magazine's September issue.

Louie A. Lange, Jr., said he personally negotiated his family's sale of the Fond du Lac (Wis.) Reporter to Thomson more than ten years ago. He called the article a diatribe and said he runs the paper today as he did before the sale.

F. Al Totter of the San Gabriel Valley Daily Tribune said he has yet to receive an editorial directive in 16 years with the chain. VanDusen's article contained "numerous mistakes and erroneous information," he charged.

Bruce B. VanDusen currently is teaching English at the Peddie School in Hightstown, N.J. Before going to Kokomo, he had been a reporter for the Providence Journal, where he was a Guild member, an editorial writer for the Detroit News and Louisville Courier-Journal and editor and publisher of a group of weeklies near Louisville.

This article is reprinted here somewhat abridged by arrangement with its author after first being published in the September issue of the Quill, magazine of the Society of Professional Journalists, Sigma Delta Chi.

News top hits \$630 at Press-Telegram

Long Beach, Calif.—A new three-year agreement between the Los Angeles Guild and the Long Beach Press-Telegram raises the key editorial top minimum by \$90 a week, to \$630.36.

The \$90 increase—for reporters, copyreaders, photographers, and artists—comes in increments of \$27.64, to \$568 a week, retroactive to last March 1, \$30 from this March 1, taking the top minimum to \$598 a week, and \$32.36 on next March 1.

The top minimum for circulation district managers is raised by \$95.68 over the contract term, to \$612 a week. The increase comes in increments of \$28.68, \$28 and \$39 a week.

An upgrading for head librarian raises the flat minimum for the job by \$147.93, to \$630.36 a week, with \$85.57 of the increase retroactive to March 1, 1983, followed by increases of \$30 and \$32.36.

The agreement calls for periodic vision tests for employees working on video display terminals and includes a statement of the company's intention to provide appropriate furniture and lighting to accommodate VDT work.

A formula for adjusting the

rate paid employees using their vehicles on company business is added to the contract. It is based on changes in both gasoline and automobile prices. The mileage rate is raised immediately by two cents, to 22 cents for the first 200 miles driven in any week, with a 17-cent rate for miles in excess of 200 in a week unchanged.

A weekly mileage guarantee for photographers is raised by \$8, to \$48, while a guarantee for district managers is raised by \$4, to \$64, and another for district managers transporting more than 500 papers daily is raised by \$4, to \$70.

Other increases and resulting new top and flat minimums include:

Circulation clerks—Up by \$51.02, to \$370.19 a week, in increments of \$16.60, \$16.79 and \$17.63.

Billing machine operators—Up by \$55.54, to \$403.05, in increments of \$18.07, \$18.28 and \$19.19.

Janitors—Up by \$48.71, to \$353.48 a week, in increments of \$15.85, \$16.03 and \$16.83.

A new job of **library clerk** has a top minimum of \$375 a week, going to \$413.44 a week over the contract's term.



BILL POE/St. Louis Guild

Signing St. Louis PR firm's second pact

Principals of the St. Louis Guild and UNICOM sign the second three-year Guild contract covering the public relations firm's staff. Pact increases staffers' salaries by a total of 21 percent over its term. Top-paid staffers currently receive more than \$700 a week. Seated, from left: Robert C. Holt, Jr., local Guild

president and TNG vice president; Edward Finkelstein, UNICOM president; Sherwood Kerker, Guild unit chair. Standing: Steve Williams and Gene Zitver of the unit, Robert A. Steinke, local executive secretary. Finkelstein also publishes the St. Louis Labor Tribune, also under a Guild contract.

TV news director median up 13%

Carbondale, Ill.—Median wage of TV news directors at commercial stations in the U.S. in 1982 was \$565 a week, up 13 percent from 1981, while that for radio news directors was \$275 a week, up 10 percent, according to a survey by the director of the journalism school at Southern Illinois University.

Responses from 690 TV stations and 815 radio stations also showed that the only other broad-

cast news employee-group to show a substantial gain in 1982 was TV-news anchorpersons.

The typical station's highest paid anchor was paid \$540 a week, up 8 percent, reported Vernon A. Stone, who makes the survey annually for the Radio/Television News Directors Assn. In the 25 top television markets, median anchorperson salary was \$1,350 a week, up 12 percent from 1981.

13 choose severance over Murdoch

Chicago—As of Jan. 24 a total of 13 Guild-covered employees had opted to take severance pay and leave the Sun-Times in the wake of Field Enterprises' sale of the paper to Rupert Murdoch's News America Publishing, Inc.

Among those taking advantage of the severance-pay provisions of the Chicago Guild's-Sun Times contract to leave the paper was columnist Mike Royko, whose right to quit and move to the

competing Chicago Tribune was upheld by a county circuit judge. In doing so the judge rejected Sun-Times arguments that a personal service contract with Royko superceded the Guild contract, which establishes a window period upon an ownership change during which employees can quit with severance pay.

In a Jan. 12 ruling Judge Anthony Scottillo also held that a prohibition in the Royko-Sun Times agreement against Royko working for any other paper, syndicate or publication distributed in the Chicago market before 1990 was overly broad and unenforceable.

The judge's ruling ended a three-day battle between Royko and the new Sun-Times management. Royko submitted a letter of resignation Jan. 10 the day after Murdoch's company took over the paper and hours later signed a contract with the Tribune.

Royko columns appeared in

both the Tribune and the Sun-Times for two days with the Sun-Times running old columns with a notation that Royko was on vacation.

Chicago Guild Administrative Officer Jerry Minkinnen, meanwhile, said he expects that another dozen or so Guild-covered employees may take severance pay and leave the paper before the option to do ends early in February.

Four top executives of the Sun-Times, including publisher James Hoge, resigned as Murdoch was preparing to assume ownership of the paper.

Hamilton members okay 1st pact

(Continued from Page 1)

mums under the local's contract with the Toronto Star. The settlement generally maintains the relationship, said John Bryant, Guild executive secretary.

The initial reporter top minimum in Hamilton is just \$8.48 short of that at the Star but is paid after four years' experience while six years' experience is required for the rate at the Star.

The initial minimum for starting reporters in Hamilton is \$25.12 a week higher than that currently in effect at the Star.

Among the Hamilton contract's job-security provisions are requirements for 30 days' notice of any proposed dismissals for economic reasons and for Guild-management consultation on the need for such action.

The new contract also provides for more senior employees to "bump" less senior employees in positions for which the more senior are qualified.

Provisions for severance pay, at two week's pay per year of employment, also is included.

An addendum to the contract gives pregnant employees who normally work on VDTs the option of working away from the machines, if such work is available, or of taking a leave of absence. The agreement also gives the Guild the right to require that the terminals be tested for radiation emissions.

The agreement also includes provisions protecting employees who may be ordered to reveal a confidential source or surrender notes or other material.

Salaries of covered employees are to be raised by 6.4 percent from Jan. 1 and by 7.2 percent on Jan. 1, 1985.

Upgradings for editorial assistants and editorial clerks raise the salaries of six women by an average of \$20 a week more than would be produced under the percentages, Bryant said.

The top minimum for editorial clerks is set at \$282, going to \$302 a week, and that for editorial assistants is set at \$372, going to \$399.

The top minimum for copy editors is set at \$665 a week, going to \$713 next year.

A flat minimum for section editors is set at \$726, going at \$778, and another for assistant editors, columnists and cartoonists is set at \$681, going to \$730.

Two-year Pottstown pact raises top rates to \$535

Pottstown, Pa.—A new two-year agreement between the Philadelphia Guild and Ingersoll's Pottstown Mercury raises the top minimum for reporters and circulation supervisors by \$49.83, to \$535.99 a week.

The agreement raises minimums by 5 percent retroactive to Sept. 15 and by another 5 percent on Sept. 15, 1984. Employees paid above the top minimum for their classification will maintain the differential above the top minimum.

The \$49.83 increase comes in increments of \$24.31, to \$510.47 from Sept. 15, and \$25.52 on next Sept. 15.

The company's payment to the pension fund is raised by \$2.50, to \$7.50 per employee per week, beginning Sept. 15, 1984, and provision for a dental insurance plan furnished by the company is added.

A new medical insurance plan

doubles the maximum coverage, to \$500,000.

A \$250 annual camera allowance is added, to be applied toward the cost of new and upgraded equipment, with the company continuing to pay for insurance and repair of photo equipment.

Outside advertising salespersons, whose minimums had been frozen at 1982 levels when a new incentive plan was added, are guaranteed 90 percent of the key minimum, raising their top minimum by \$24.97, to \$482.30, with the incentive plan continued.

The top minimum for inside classified solicitors is raised by \$32.10, to \$345.29 a week, in increments of \$15.66 and \$16.44.

The hourly rate for mailers is raised by 76 cents, to \$8.19 over the contract term, and the top minimum for clerks and telephone operators is raised by \$28.21, to \$303.40.



GUILD BARGAINING TEAM AT THE POTTSTOWN MERCURY

From left: Philadelphia Guild Administrative Officer Bill Barry, Unit Chairperson Gene Koch, Charles Pierce, Frank Warner, Fred Myers and Stan Swenk.

ITU-Teamsters merger proposal near completion

Miami — International Typographical Union President Joe Bingel and Secretary-Treasurer Thomas W. Kopeck were at the Fontenbleau Hotel here with the Teamsters' international executive board Jan. 26-27 in an effort to complete a proposal for merger of the ITU into the Teamsters.

Only matters left to be completed were financial—i.e. Teamsters' assistance to the support of the Union Printers Home, the ITU Mortuary benefit and ITU payroll costs—Bingel reported in the Jan. 19 issue of the ITU Review and the January Typographical Journal.

The unions' general counsels—Ron Rosenberg of the ITU and Robert M. Baptiste of the Teamsters—presented the ITU's Executive Council with a merger proposal complete in all other respects on Dec. 19, Bingel reported.

He and Kopeck met with Teamsters President Jackie Presser and Secretary-Treasurer Ray Schoessling in Washington to tackle those questions on Jan. 12 and 13 and were continuing the sessions during the Teamsters board meeting here.

Meanwhile, a meeting of local leaders of Typographical and Mailer Unions from throughout Canada, in Toronto Jan. 21-22, was warned that the ITU and its Canadian locals would be expelled from the Canadian Labour Congress immediately if the ITU merges with the unaffiliated Teamsters.

Ed Johnston, assistant to CLC President Dennis McDermott, also pledged to the meeting, however, that Canadian ITU locals would have the CLC's full support if they broke away from the ITU over the Teamsters-merger question, Wilfred List reported in the Globe and Mail.

Leaders of the larger Canadian ITU locals generally seemed opposed to a Teamsters merger while those from smaller locals generally appeared to favor it, List also reported.

ITU Vice President Allan J. Heritage, himself a Canadian, brought two Teamsters representatives to the meeting and spoke in favor of the ITU joining the Teamsters.

In October, AFL-CIO President Lane Kirkland informed Bingel that the ITU would be expelling itself from the AFL-CIO if it merged with the unaffiliated Teamsters.

Shortly after the first of the year, ITU Counsel Rosenberg left the Washington law firm of Bredhoff & Kaiser after it dropped the ITU as a client in the face of the conflict of interest in continuing to represent both AFL-CIO departments and the ITU while the ITU-Teamsters merger effort continued. The AFL-CIO had notified the firm that it was being dropped in the face of the interest conflict.

Gerhard P. vanArkle, Rosenberg's predecessor as ITU counsel and an honorary member of the union in recognition of his long service to it, remained with the Bredhoff & Kaiser firm, however.

ITU-Teamsters merger talks were launched formally last fall after Presser invited delegates at the ITU's 1983 Convention to reject the proposal for merger with the Guild worked out in talks that stretched over five years, and the delegates did so.

IEB issues report on delinquent locals

In keeping with a directive by TNG's 1983 Convention, TNG's International Executive Board reported that the following locals were delinquent in the payment of per-capitas to TNG as of Jan. 1:

Local	Arrears	Amount
Bakersfield	1 mo.	\$ 771.20
Battle Creek	3 mos.	289.20
Canadian Wire Service	4 mos.	30,616.64
Chattanooga	3 mos.	1,156.80
Columbus	7 mos.	8,097.60
Denver	1 mo.	5,302.00
Detroit	1 mo.	10,122.00
Eugene	2 mos.	1,253.20
Hudson County	1 mo.	453.08
Indianapolis	9 mos.	954.36

Lansing	2 mos.	694.08
Madison	1 mo.	19.28
New York	4 mos.	196,000.00
Peoria	2 mos.	2,120.80
Twin Cities	1 mo.	7,172.16
Utica	1 mo.	96.40
Wire Service	5 1/2 mos.	71,413.12
Youngstown	1 mo.	1,060.40

The delinquencies among the 18 locals added up to a total of \$337,592.32, Secretary-Treasurer Charles Dale reported. Payments were received from Canadian Wire Service, Chattanooga, Detroit, Eugene, Indianapolis, New York, Utica, U.S. Wire Service and Youngstown after Jan. 1.

LOCAL ELECTIONS

Cleveland

Elizabeth Sullivan, president; Mary Englert, 1st vice president; Walter Bogdanich, 2nd vice president; Joseph Frolik, 3rd vice president; William C. Miller, 4th vice president; J. Stephen Hatch, executive secretary; Janet Kolodzy, treasurer (Kolodzy 125, John Nussbaum 112).

Denver

George Utley, president; Patti Barth, 1st vice president; Sharon Stewart, 2nd vice president; Ray Flack, secretary; Bob Ewegen, treasurer.

San Diego

Michelle Davis, president (Davis 197, William E. Neil 130); Earl Block, vice president; Susan Childs, treasurer; Mark Monday, secretary.

Pacific Northwest

Gilbert E. Bally, president; Kris Sherman, vice president; Richard Hubbell, secretary; Wayne Cahill, treasurer.

San Francisco-Oakland

Roberta Simons, president; Margaret Binkley, Margo Lafferty, Claudia Collett, vice presidents (Binkley 231, Lafferty 208, Collett 202, Will Jones 200); Terry Link, treasurer; Floyd Tucker, recording secretary; Doug Cuthbertson, executive secretary.

San Jose

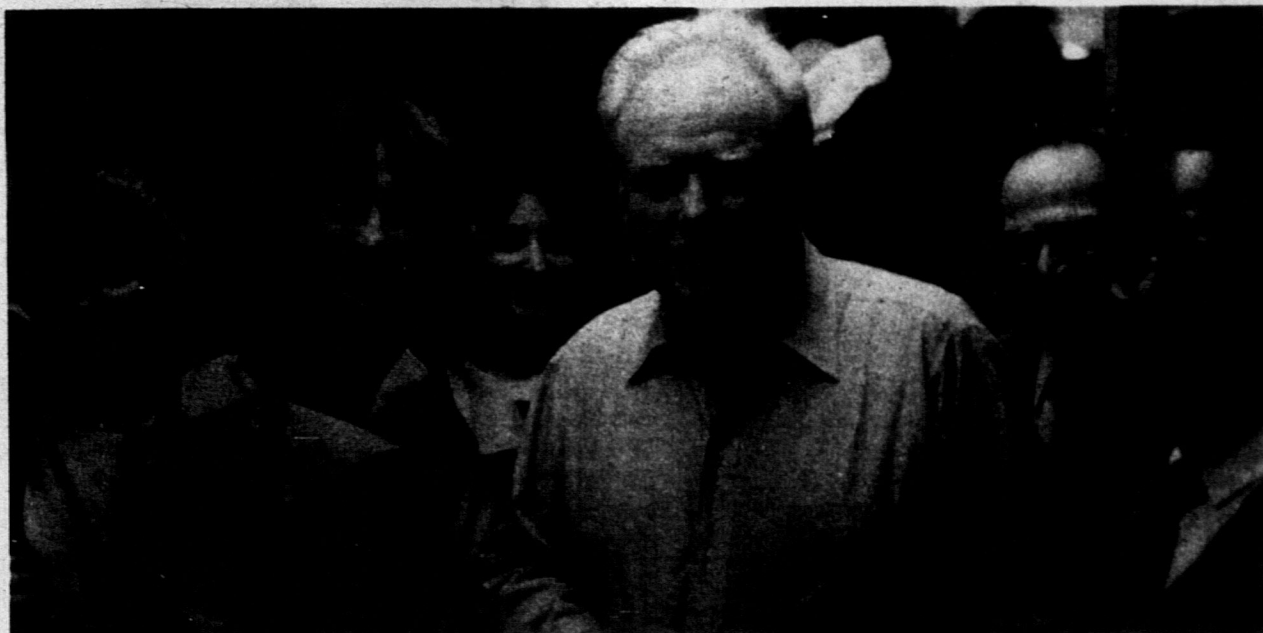
Russ Cain, president (Cain, 231; Tom Harris, 205); Bill Ernst, vice president (Ernst, 213; Bill Phillips, 201); Frank Sweeney, secretary-treasurer.

Terre Haute

Pat Smith, president; Ken Smith, vice president; Patty Bryant, secretary-treasurer.

Vancouver-New Westminster

Jim Young, president; Dean Tkatschow, 1st vice president; Mel Morris, 2nd vice president; Alice Busby, secretary; Doug Louth, treasurer.



Backstage solidarity

Philadelphia Guild members visit actor Carroll O'Connor backstage after enjoying his performance in the play, "Brothers." He plays a union president coping with serious family problems. O'Connor was a member of the

New York Guild when he was a copy boy at one of that city's newspapers. Philadelphia Guild members with him are, from left: Linda Dooling, Mary Walton, Peggy Bennis, Mike Snyder, Bob Goldberg and Eugene Jones.

Wartinger, Brown held ITU victors

Colorado Springs—Incumbent Robert L. Wartinger and first-time candidate Ray Brown have been certified as winners of the last two of the three vice presidencies of the International Typographical Union.

The certifications were made by the ITU's International Canvassing Board on Jan. 18 after it dismissed challenges to their victories in the Nov. 16 union-wide election.

The challenges were by Wartinger's opponent, Billy Joe Austin of Denver, and by Robert S. McMichen, who had foregone running for a fifth term as a vice president to challenge Joe Bingel for the union's presidency. The canvassing board said there was no evidence to substantiate the challenges. Its actions were by 4-to-1 votes.

McMichen immediately served notice he would appeal the certifications to the full five-member executive council.

Wartinger, who outpolled Austin by 5,412, continues as the ITU's second vice president under a system tying the numerical designation of the three vice-presidents to their vote totals.

Brown, who has been an ITU international representative, outpolled Bill Boardman, president of the Columbia Typographical Union, by 23,724 to 21,644, and

becomes third vice president.

Allan J. Heritage, who had been third vice president and who was not challenged for re-election, was certified a winner by the canvassing board Dec. 21 and becomes first vice president.

Also on Dec. 21, the board certified Thomas W. Kopeck re-elected as secretary-treasurer, over Robert E. Petersen of Washington.

Meanwhile, Joe Bingel continues to serve as ITU president under a ruling by the canvassing board that accompanied its order that there be a rerun of the election between Bingel and McMichen.

The board ordered the rerun after considering protests to the conduct of the election campaign.

paigns lodged by both Bingel and McMichen. [Guild Reporter, Jan. 13.]

McMichen, who outpolled Bingel by 4,920 votes, continued to serve in the office of first vice president until the canvassing board's Jan. 18 rulings.

The rerun is to be shortly after the end of March under the board's action.

In another Jan. 18 action, the board certified that the referendum on establishing an ITU organizing fund and an assessment mechanism to keep it replenished was approved by a narrow margin.

The vote establishes a \$400,000 fund, with international dues to increase by \$1 a month whenever it falls below \$100,000.

Top rate goes to \$386 for Slovenes

Chicago—The top minimum for associate editors, senior computer operators and bookkeepers covered by the Chicago Guild's contract with the Slovene National Benefit Society is raised by \$29.19, to \$386.88 a week, under a recent agreement with the society.

The \$29.19 increase comes in two steps over the two-year term of the agreement. The first, \$14.31 a week, is retroactive to last May 1, and the second, \$14.88, comes this May 1.

The society's payment toward the cost of family health insurance coverage is raised from 75 percent of the premium, to 80 percent, and the formula for computing pensions is improved for both current and future retirees.

The top minimum for secretaries, junior computer operators and policy clerks is raised by \$26.61, to \$352.66 a week, while that for circulation and general clerks is increased by \$25.67, to \$340.30 a week.

New officer seminar draws registrants

Washington — Leaders of a dozen locals in the U.S. and Canada already had registered by Jan. 25 for TNG's residential seminar for new local officers, to be held here over the Washington's Birthday holiday weekend, Feb. 17-20, Ellis T. Baker, TNG administration operations reported.

The seminar, again to be held at the George Meany Center for Labor Studies in suburban Washington, will open Friday evening, the 17th, with a discussion of the present state and future prospects of the Guild and the industry and continue through Monday noon, the 20th, with sessions on local administration, bargaining, contract enforcement, organizing, safety and health, and women's and minority rights.

Labor's troubadour, Joe Glazer, who performed at the Guild's 50th anniversary convention banquet last summer, will present a program of Guild and other labor songs at the seminar, and

members of TNG's field staff will join the seminar for some of its sessions.

The program, now in its third year, is designed primarily but not exclusively for new officers of smaller locals without professional staff, and TNG subsidizes the expenses of one participant each from such locals. With the

subsidy, the cost of room and board for the seminar weekend this year is \$129.

Noting that approximately 75 percent of the smaller locals have sent leaders to the first two seminars, TNG's Baker, urged those locals that have not taken advantage of the seminar subsidy to do so this year.

DAY

BOOK

Middle-Atlantic District Council, winter meeting, Feb. 4-5, Philadelphia.
Midwest District Council, winter meeting, Feb. 11-12, Chicago.
TNG residential seminar for new local officers, Feb. 17-20, George Meany Center for Labor Studies, Silver Spring, Md. (Suburban Washington.)
New England District Council, winter meeting, Feb. 25-26.
Lowell Mellett Award for improving journalism through critical evaluation, entry deadline March 1, 1984, 1125-15th St. N.W., Rm. 530, Washington, D.C. 20005.

Great Lakes District Council, winter meeting, March 3-4, Erie, Pa.
Southern District Council, winter meeting, March 17-18, San Antonio.
International Executive Board, spring meeting, April 16-20, TNG headquarters, Washington.
Western District Council, spring meeting, April 21-22, San Diego.
Great Lakes, Midwest and Southern District Councils, joint spring meeting, May 5-6, Bel Air Hilton hotel, St. Louis.
51st Annual Convention, June 18-22, Caribe Hilton, San Juan, Puerto Rico.

MILITARY INTELLIGENCE?



A BROWN AWARD-WINNING COLUMN

A look at the 'State of the Union' from a cheese line in Baltimore

By Dan Rodricks

ON STATE OF THE Union day, the path to cheese turned to mud. Sticky, cold mud. They were handing out cheese and butter at the Victory Villa Community Center in Middle River, and feet were treading relentlessly on the path to the door.

Just before noon, some workmen came out and placed two large pieces of 1-inch plywood on the ground by the steps, and, as soon as they did this, 20 feet shuffled from the mud to the wood. "That's better," a woman said. "Much better. Thank you."

Actually, the path had been whipped into mud from the waiting. The first seekers of cheese arrived at the door about 7:30 a.m. Three hours went by before big yellow county trucks unloaded the brown boxes. And it was at least 11 a.m. before they actually gave away the cheese.

Everybody waited. Hundreds of people. Young women holding children. Old women holding purses. Old men. Young men. The line went from the door of the delivery room, down four steps, across a wet lawn, then down a driveway and onto a sidewalk around the community center.

The intersection of Compass Road and Martin Boulevard was jammed with cars the way streets around high schools are jammed on Homecoming Day. And the wind was picking up, and the sky was dingy gray.

ALLAN WALLS, in a big blue snorkel coat, came down the steps with two long boxes, each containing a five-pound block of All-American cheese. He had two one-pound bricks of butter, and he was fidgeting to get a better hold of it all.

"I figured I paid for it with my taxes while I was working, so why not?" said Walls, who is 36 years old and the father of three children. He put the blocks of cheese in the pockets of the big coat. "It's a little degrading, I guess. I worked all my adult life and now it's the pits, standing in line for a couple of pounds of cheese."

In 1980, which was the last time Walls worked a full year,

This is one of the "Street Talk" columns that won the 1983 Heywood Brown Award for Dan Rodricks of the Baltimore Evening Sun. It is reprinted here, with permission of the paper and Rodricks, from the Evening Sun of Jan. 26, 1983.

he went into a voting booth, flicked a switch and ordered up Ronald Reagan.

"I've always been a little conservative and I thought Reagan was going to turn the country around," he said. "His main thrust was to cut government spending. And that's all the Democrats seemed to be doing—spend, spend, spend. He seemed like he was going to get the thing back together."

"You can't blame all the problems on him, but he hasn't done very much, has he? He doesn't seem to have much sympathy for the working man."

Allan Walls got the cheese because, aside from mowing lawns in summer and shoveling driveways in winter, he hasn't worked a serious job since September, 1981. He had 14 good years installing drive shafts at General Motors when the layoff notice came.

And when Walls voted for Ronald Reagan, life was rosy.

"I had a rowhouse in Dundalk all paid for. I made about \$23,000, \$24,000 a year. I was proud of the fact that my wife could stay home and take care of the kids while I went to work."

Walls had two cars, both Chevies. He had little trouble getting credit, too. In those days, you told a credit manager you worked at General Motors and you just about walked away with plastic in your pocket.

In 1979, Walls moved out of Dundalk. He bought a house with three bedrooms and a two-car garage in a new development near Perry Hall. In today's market, the houses there sell for \$70,000 to \$100,000. His neighbors have mostly white-collar jobs.

"This is the first time I've ever been out of work, and I think I

can hold on. But I'm getting worried. It doesn't seem like anything's coming our way."

Walls figures he has three more weeks of unemployment benefits. His wife keeps a part-time job in a department store, so they are still making mortgage payments.

"I haven't filed for food stamps yet. Others need it more. And I guess that's where my pride gets in the way. I heard the interview is pretty degrading. You've got to tell them everything, tell them every penny you have."

In the meantime, Walls, who has a degree in business administration, keeps looking for work.

"I've got all the places written down somewhere. Mostly places like insurance companies and banking. But most places don't even take applications. You send in resumes, and most of the time you don't even hear back from them . . . I get tired of sitting around. A lot of times it seems like I've got nothing to look forward to."

GIVEN A chance to make a State of the Union address, what would Allan Walls have said last night?

"I'd tell the president and the Congress to stop fighting each other and get the country back together. Stop worrying about aircraft carriers and get some job training programs. I'm all for defense, but you get to the point where it's just throwing money down a hole. And the MX, that's money that'll be buried in the ground."

"It's going to take a co-operative effort with government, industry and labor. And it's got to be different than before. No more leaf-raking jobs; they don't amount to much. I think the government should give a job credit to industry, where a business gets credit for hiring someone who's out of work and training him. . . ."

"I don't know. Maybe I'm lucky. I still got my house and my family's in good health. But I'm not better off than I was two years ago. Remember? That's what Reagan used to ask us. Are we better off?"

As they put it

No more Grenadas

The following statement was adopted by TNG's International Executive Board on Jan. 23, the opening day of its winter meeting. [See story Page 3.]

In the first days of the Grenada invasion, it was difficult to determine who was the enemy—the Grenadans or the press.

The (Reagan) administration acted to oust the government and the Cubans in Grenada. It put the press under blockade across the water on Barbados.

Both operations were a success. Grenada was occupied. The American people had their perception of the event shaped exclusively by the government in those first crucial days. And the press was made to appear the guilty party.

None of the lame excuses offered to justify the administration's policy of concealment merit reply.

The action was an outrage. It must not be repeated.

A Pentagon panel is looking into the matter. The White House has promised to meet with news-media organizations. There have been calls for a Congressional hearing.

As representatives of the working press, we welcome all of these. But there is a danger that the principal point will be lost in a welter of words, buried in bickering over secondary issues.

The press, in all its diversity, is the nation's eyes and ears, not the government in its singleness of purpose. Not in 1984.

What is needed now is a ringing affirmation from the government that it will not happen again. What is needed from the press is the determination to insist on nothing less.

Why our democracy works

The following is excerpted from "A statement of principle on press access to military operations" by a special committee of representatives of 10 media organizations, including the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press, the Society of Professional Journalists, Sigma Delta Chi and the American Newspaper Publishers Assn.

Since the Revolutionary War, American journalists traditionally have been allowed to accompany American troops on military operations, even when those actions depended upon the element of surprise.

Such access has furthered the vital interest of the public in having independent accounts of the actions of our uniformed men and women in combat, beyond those reports issued by government officials. . . .

Our society remains healthy and free primarily because our public has an independent source of information about its government. Preservation of that principle is essential to the proper functioning of our constitutional democracy and to our national well being. Without this open flow of information, our system of self-government would not work.

The Guild Reporter

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ACPS

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