Electronics transforming 'morgues,' too

By Richard J. Ramsey
Exec. Sec'y, TNG Contracts Committee

MORE AND more newspaper libraries are going on line, threatening extinction of the image of newspaper morgues as sometimes dingy, often dusty and paper-strewn places.

Also going, over time, with the switch to the electronic library will be all those often frayed, brittle, yellowed and coffee-stained clippings.

Indicating a resurgent interest in automated libraries, three companies displayed electronic library systems during the American Newspaper Publishers Assn.'s Management Production Conference and Exposition, held in Atlanta in June.

Two of them operate networks of newspaper libraries. They will automate a newspaper's library by putting its files into easily retrievable computer storage, then making the files available by computer to other newspaper and non-newspaper subscribers. In turn, these other companies make their computer bases—information files—available to the newspaper whose library has just been automated.

The third system shown at the annual conference is designed to store and retrieve an individual newspaper's computer file, using abstracts or full-text articles.

All of the systems require an upgrading of the skills of library employees that ought to result in upgrading library salaries as well.

"The library is a more important place than ever in this age of electronic information," said Peter T. Leach, director of operations for Vu/Text Information Services in remarks to one of six symposia held in connection with what one ANPA leader called "the most advanced and comprehensive newspaper equipment exhibition that has been held under one roof."

A KNIGHT-RIDDER subsidiary, Vu/Text of Philadelphia provides electronic library storage and retrieval services for six newspapers. The Guild represents library employees on five of the six.

Nearly 20 newspapers, about half of them owned by Knight-Ridder, are expected to be in the Vu/Text system by the end of the year.

Starting with the news stories of the Philadelphia Daily News from the beginning of 1980. Vu/Text had grown

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The GUILD REPORTER

Official publication of The Newspaper Guild (AFL-CIO, CLC)

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Industry maintains double-digit pace in '84's first half

Reports from U.S. newspaper companies on their financial performance for the first half of 1984 support projections that the year will be another banner one for the industry.

Expenditures for advertising in U.S. newspapers in the first quarter of the year rose by 16.4 percent, to $5.2 billion, according to the Newspaper Advertising Bureau. The overall gain reflected a 32.1 percent rise in spending for classified advertising, to $1.7 billion, together with a 10.4 percent rise in retail spending, to $2.8 million, and a 7.9 percent increase in spending for national ads.

The NAB has forecast a 12.6 percent rise, to $23 billion, in expenditures for newspaper advertising for the year.

Spending for advertising in all forms in the United States, meanwhile, is expected to rise by 14.9 percent, to more than $87 billion. Last year expenditures for newspaper ads rose at a greater pace than in other categories.

Midyear reports from publicly traded newspaper companies show a continuation of solid, double-digit growth. A sampling:

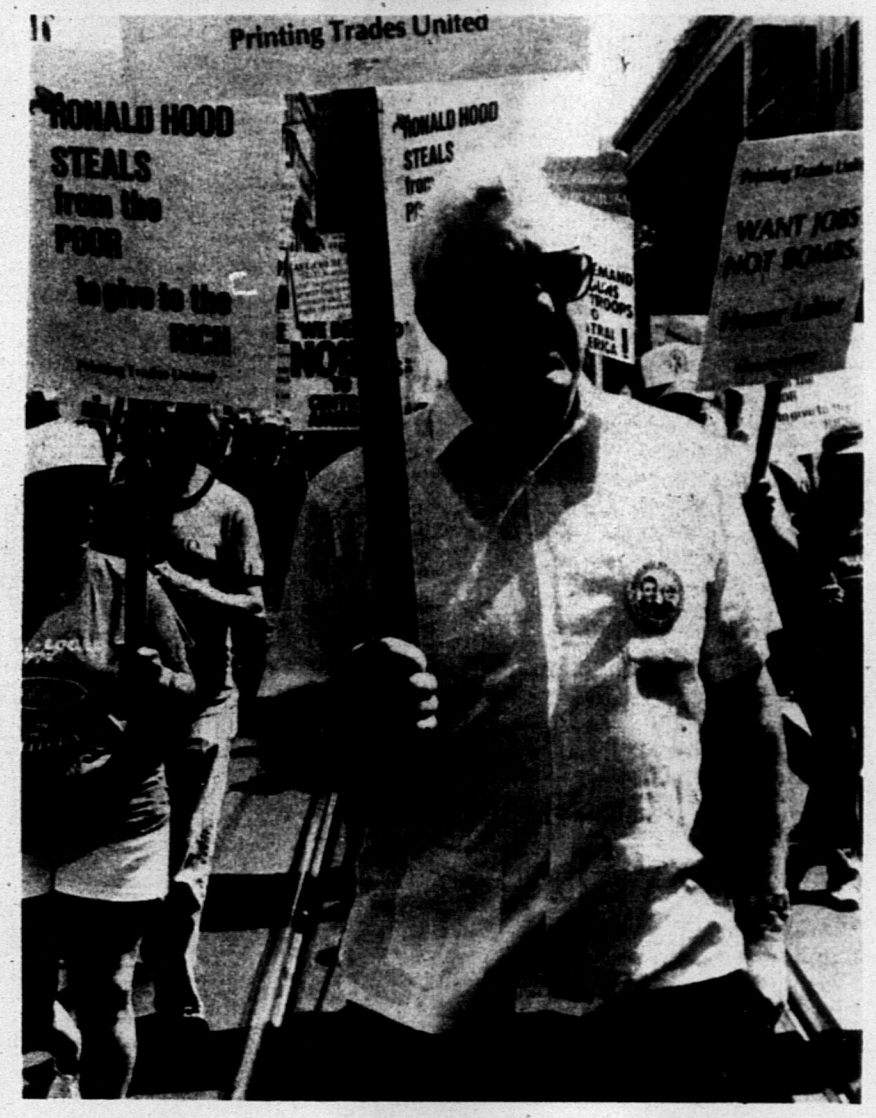
Affiliated Publications, Inc., publisher of the Boston Globe, had after-tax profits of $11.8 million, up 38.8 percent, for the first six months of 1983. Revenue for the period totalled $163.9 million, up 18.9 percent.

Capital Cities Communications, Inc., had after-tax profits of $66.4 million, up 24 percent, on revenues for the first six months of the year of $450.4 million, up 23.7 percent.

Dow Jones & Co. Inc., publisher of the Wall Street Journal, had revenues for the first six months of $476.1 million, up 14.5 percent. Its after-tax profits

(Continued on Page 2)

RUSS CAIN/San Jose Guild



McMichen wins again; Bingel files objections

For the second time in eight months the membership of the Int'l Typographical Union has voted to replace incumbent ITU President Joe Bingel with challenger Robert S. McMichen and for the second time a protest by Bingel has prevented McMichen's being seated when he expected to do so.

This time the margin was nearly two to one.

In the second election—a mail-ballot rerun supervised by the U.S. Labor Dept., which announced the vote tally July 27—two candidates for ITU vice presidencies running with McMichen also outpolled incumbents after losing to them in ITU elections last November.

McMichen and his slate mates—Bill Boarman of the Washington, D.C., ITU local and Billy Joe Austin of the Denver local—pledged in their campaign to merge the ITU with another AFL-CIO union rather than into the Teamsters, the latter favored by Bingel and all four other incumbents.

Meanwhile, on July 30 a federal judge in San Francisco denied a petition by the five incumbent officers to lift an injunction so they could hold a union-wide referendum on Sept. 19 on their

(Continued on Page 2)

More on TNG's '84 Convention . . . Pp. 6, 7

Guild, crafts show solidarity in S.F. march

Some 200 members and leaders of publishing industry unions, including leaders and members from TNG and the San Francisco-Oakland, San Jose and Bakersfield Guilds, were among the 160,000-plus from dozens of unions who marched and rallied in downtown San Francisco the day before the Democratic National Convention opened. At left is TNG President Charles A. Perlik, Jr., marching with publishing unions' contingent which also included, foreground above, Karen Miller and Laura Sansom of the San Jose Guild's Monterey unit and, background center, with sign, Peter Tittl of the Bakersfield Guild.

Story, Page 8

Honoring service

Four of 17 Toledo Guild members cited for their years of service to the union pose with the local's president, Howard Burkhardt, left, during joint service-awards luncheon of the Guild, Typographical and Mailer Unions. Seven Guild people received 40-year membership pins including, second left above, Seymour Rothman, Bernice Bourdeau and Jeanne Walker. Charles Beyer, far right, was among 10 to receive 25-year pins. Rothman and John Grigsby, not pictured, have the longest service—48 years each. Two Typographical Union members were honored for 60 years' membership; five for 50 years.

Toledo Blade by JACK ACKERMAN/Toledo Guild

McMichen wins; Bingel files objections

(Continued from Page 1)

Teamster-merger proposal and a Cleveland Teamster local petitioned on July 31 for an election which could result in its taking over the ITU-Mailers local at the Plain Dealer.

Acting just hours before expiration of a 10-day period for protests of the Labor Dept.-supervised rerun election, Bingel and the other two outpolled incumbents alleged that the McMichen slate had received assistance from the AFL-CIO that was illegal under a federal law forbidding use of employer or union funds on behalf of a candidate for union office. The AFL-CIO was acting as an employer, the three alleged.

McMichen called the charges "a sham," asserting that "our campaign didn't accept a dime from any individual or organization outside the ITU." McMichen would have become ITU president on Aug. 13 if the protest had not been filed.

The AFL-CIO has been assisting a Merger Committee for One Big Printing Union, formed with McMichen as chair to promote the ITU's merger with the Graphic Communications Int'l Union, or another AFL-CIO union, but did not get involved in the rerun election campaign, a federation representative said.

A Labor Dept. representative said it will issue a decision by Aug. 27 on the validity of the protest by Bingel and ITU Vice Presidents Robert L. Wartinger and Ray Brown.

Following is the tally of ballots announced by the Labor Dept. after the rerun election (total tallied was 43,755, about 5,000 fewer than last November):

✓ McMichen, 28,167; Bingel, 15,296—a margin of 12,871. McMichen's margin in November was 4,920. This time he carried majorities in more than 340 of the union's locals, compared to 125 for Bingel.

The ITU's election committee set aside the result of the first Bingel-McMichen contest on complaints by Bingel, but the rerun was scheduled only after McMichen went to the Labor Dept.

✓ Austin, 24,157; Wartinger, 17,237—a margin of 6,920—for one vice presidency. Wartinger won by 5,412 votes in November.

✓ Boarman, 23,918; Brown, 17,699—a margin of 6,219—for a second vice presidency. Brown won by 2,080 in the first election.

✓ Allan J. Heritage, incumbent unopposed for a third vice presidency in both elections, 29,757—2,691 fewer votes than in November.

Thomas W. Kopeck, incumbent sec'y-treasurer, 24,569; Robert E. Petersen, from the same local as Boarman, 18,532. The margin of 6,037 was about half that by which Kopeck won in November.

Kopeck and Heritage also back the Teamster-merger proposal.

Petersen, who opposes it, ran a low-key campaign apart from the McMichen slate.

McMichen said he considers a Teamster-merger agreement signed by the Bingel administration, subject only to a membership referendum, "null and void as far as I'm concerned."

The Bingel administration's effort to lift the injunction against any step being taken to merge the ITU with any union came after ITU officers voted on July 13 to schedule for Sept. 19 a referendum. Their action was in response to a petition to hold a vote from the St. Louis Mailers Union. The petition carried endorsements from more than 160 other locals. The ITU's constitution requires a referendum on any question moved by one local and supported by at least 150 others. It does not specify if the endorsements are to be by vote of a local's membership or officers, or both, or otherwise.

The ITU's 1984 Convention, the first since the Teamster-merger proposal was signed, is scheduled for Sept. 8-14 in Atlantic City.

Teamster leader thanks Guild for aid

New York—The president of a Teamsters local which ended a 96-day strike against Western Union Int'l in mid-July after winning a new three-year contract has thanked the Guild for its "outstanding support" during the strike.

TNG had endorsed a boycott of Western Union Int'l's transmission services — the primary service at the Olympic Games as well as at the Democratic and Republican national conventions.

In addition to calling on its own locals and members to observe the boycott, TNG also had urged other affiliates of the Int'l Federation of Journalists to take similar action.

"That kind of solidarity makes all the difference! It is proof in practice that a local does not stand by itself when it faces a Goliath," wrote Daniel J. Kane, president of the Teamsters Local #111.

Western Union Int'l is a subsidiary of MCI Communications Corp.

Kane also said that the Teamsters local as part of the settlement did agree "not to participate in a boycott of MCI" for the duration of the three-year contract.

Booklet available on Latin America

Washington—The Council on Hemispheric Affairs is offering the booklet reporting the "Survey of Press Freedom in Latin America 1983/1984" to Guild members without charge.

COHA published the booklet in co-operation with TNG [Guild Reporter, June 15]. Regular price is $4.95 per copy.

Interested members should contact COHA at Room 201, 1900 L St. NW., Washington, D.C. 20036.

Industry keeps pace through '84's first half

(Continued from Page 1)

were $68.2 million, up 30.1 percent.

Gannett Co., Inc., had after-tax profits of $94.5 million, up 12 percent, and revenues for the first half of the year of $916.9 million, up 13 percent.

Knight-Ridder Newspapers, Inc., had after-tax profits in the first six months of $64.5 million, up 25.3 percent, on revenues of $810.1 million, up 14.5 percent.

Lee Enterprises, Inc., with a fiscal year beginning in October, has posted after-tax profits for the first nine months of its fiscal year of $16.1 million, up 13.4 percent, on revenues of $141.8 million, up 9.6 percent.

Multimedia, Inc., had after-tax profits for the first six months of $17.8 million, up 17 percent, on revenues of $145.1 million, up 14 percent.

The New York Times Co. had revenues in the first half of the year totalling $603.9 million, up 11 percent, and after-tax profits of $52.2 million, up 21 percent. A 19 percent increase in its second quarter profits to $27.7 million, was largely the result of its newspapers, it reported. Their before-tax profits were up 39 percent, to $47.5 million.

The Tribune Co., despite a second-quarter decline in pre-tax profits from its New York Daily News, had a 14 percent increase in revenues in the first six months of the year, to $861 million. After-tax profits for the first six months were up 72 percent, to $39.1 million.

Washington Post Co. had revenues totalling $475.6 million, up 13 percent, and after-tax profits for the six-month period of $36.2 million, up 31.6 percent.

Foley joins TNG staff; Griffin moving to field

Washington—Linda K. Foley, president of the Lexington Guild, has joined TNG's headquarters staff as collective bargaining and research assistant.

James H. Griffin, who has held the position the past 19 months, is being transferred to TNG's staff of international representatives.

Linda K. Foley

Griffin is filling the field staff position from which Luis Montanez is on leave of absence while serving as local representative for the Puerto Rico Guild.

Griffin was vice president of the Lexington Guild when he joined TNG's staff in December of 1982. For several months before transfering to the field staff, he has assisted several locals parttime with bargaining and organizing.

Foley, active in leadership positions at several levels in the Guild and the Lexington labor movement, began working at TNG headquarters Aug. 6 under a contractual leave of absence from the Knight-Ridder chain's Herald-Leader, where she worked seven years as a copy editor.

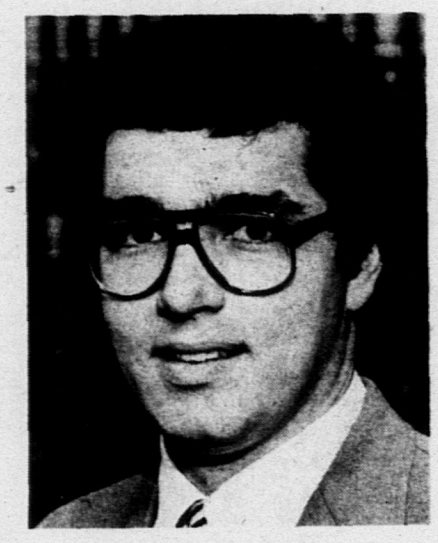
Until resigning to come here, she had been Lexington Guild president nearly five years, secretary of the Southern District Council of Guild locals and treasurer of the Knight-Ridder Council two years.

As a delegate to annual TNG conventions she has been chairperson of its Rules, Research & Information and Resolutions committees.

Earlier this year she was elected a vice president of the Lexington and Bluegrass Central Labor Council, which she had served on its executive committee since 1981. This year she also was labor participation chair for the United Way of Bluegrass.

A participant in TNG's 1983 residential seminar for new local officers, Foley also has served as an instructor in production of local union publications at the University of Kentucky's Center for Labor Education and Research.

Griffin, a former secretary of the Lexington Guild while a news assistant at the Herald, late last year helped the Hampton Roads Guild reaffirm its bargaining rights for editorial employees at the Norfolk Virginian-Pilot and Ledger Star and has been assisting that local, the Peninsula (Newport News, Va.) and York (Pa.) Guilds in bargaining.



James H. Griffin

Mid-sized dailies said hot property

New York — A medium-sized daily newspaper with a monopoly in its market is the hottest of media properties, according to media broker Christopher Shaw.

"The daily newspaper with a circulation of 15,000 or more with no daily competition sells at a considerably higher multiple [of net income] than any other business, anywhere in the world, with the exception of an occasional software firm," Shaw told a reporter for Advertising Age. He is co-managing director of Henry Ansbacher Inc., a new U.S. subsidiary of Henry Ansbacher Holdings of London.

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New code in Canada bans sex harassment

Ottawa — A revised Canada Labour Code signed by Prime Minister Elliot Trudeau shortly before he left office late in June requires employers covered by its provisions to advise employees of their right to work in an environment "free of sexual harassment."

The code defines sexual harassment as conduct, comments, gestures or contact of a sexual nature that is likely to cause offense or humiliation or that might reasonably be perceived as placing a sexual condition on employment opportunities.

It requires employers to issue a statement describing what constitutes sexual harassment and outlining how an employee may lodge a complaint.

Guild-covered employees working for wire services and radio and television stations in Canada are covered by provisions of the federal code. Newspaper and magazine employees, on the other hand, fall under the jurisdiction of provincial labor codes.

The revised federal code also consolidates federal health and safety laws, and health and safety protections are expanded to include recognition of an employee's right to refuse to perform hazardous work, as well as provision for a federal advisory council on health and safety.

A 17-week optional maternity leave is increased to a total of 41 weeks, and a 24-week period of leave is extended to men as well as women for child care.

Requirement that all employees covered by a union contract pay the equivalent of union dues regardless of union membership also is added to the code. The requirement is similar to ones included in provincial labor codes in effect in Ontario, Manitoba, Quebec and Saskatchewan.

On Union Avenue in Memphis

Memphis Guild members march in front of the Commercial Appeal in the first of two days of informational picketing during the local's effort to bargain an equitable new contract with the Scripps-Howard daily. Members in mid-June rejected one company proposal; another in late July. A third, this one recommended by local bargainers, was to be voted on late Aug. 9. Some 140 Guild members picketed in half-hour shifts July 10. On Aug. 1 they were joined by leaders and members of other unions at the paper and in the community, including the building trades, police and fire fighters and the Memphis Central Labor Council. Labor council had voted advertiser and subscription boycotts and a contribution for radio ads.

News tops to go up $100, to $700, in Baltimore pact

Baltimore—The top minimum for reporters, photographers and artists covered by the Washington-Baltimore Guild's contract with the Baltimore Sunpapers is raised by $100, to $700 a week, under a three-year settlement.

The $100 increase comes in six steps, with the first, effective from June 10, taking the top minimum up by $20, to $620. A $10 increase on Dec. 9 takes the top minimum to $630, and is followed by increases of $20, $10, $30 and $10 in June and December of 1985 and 1986.

The company's weekly payment per employee to the pension plan is raised by 80 cents, to $10.40, and life insurance coverage for employees over age 64 is raised by $1,500 to $6,500.

Members of the local's Sunpapers unit ratified the agreement June 14 after twice voting to extend a strike deadline.

The company dropped demands that employees pay a portion of health insurance costs, while the Guild agreed to some modifications in coverage and several "cost containment" features, including an admissions review procedure in advance of some hospitalizations.

The option of participating in a health maintenance organization in lieu of Blue Cross/Blue Shield coverage is also added to the agreement.

A general increase guarantee, ranging from $49 to $100, for employees paid at or above the top minimum for their classification also is included in the agreement.

The top minimum for outside sales employees is raised by $80 over the term, to $660 a week, while that for inside sales employees is raised by $79, to $477.

The top minimum for stenographers, stock clerks, telephone operators and retail advertising service clerks is reduced by $1, to $330 a week.

The top minimum for county correspondents and photographers covered by a separate agreement is raised by $110, to $365 a week, beginning June 9.

PHILADELPHIA GUILD RETIREES LEARN OF LONG AWAITED BOOST IN PENSIONS

More than 90 pensioners from the Inquirer and Daily News turned out for the meeting of the local's recently formed retiree chapter.

Philadelphia pensions raised

Philadelphia—The pension of Guild-covered retirees from the Philadelphia Inquirer and Daily News was boosted in July for the first time since the plan's inception nearly 25 years ago.

The increase, 4 percent, plus $1 for each year of retirement, will boost individual pensions by as much as 370 percent, the Philadelphia Guild reported.

The increase in payments from the plan to retirees was approved by Guild and management trustees of the fund.

More than 90 former Guild-covered employees turned out for the May meeting of the Philadelphia Guild's retiree unit where the pension increases were discussed. The local formed the retiree chapter earlier this year.

Agency inspections draw safety orders at Globe & Mail

Reprinted from S.O.N.G SHEET
Southern Ontario Guild

Toronto—Few people think of offices as hazardous workplaces, but even the Ontario Ministry of Labour agreed when the Guild's Globe and Mail unit health and safety committee complained that the newsroom of the paper that calls itself Canada's National Newspaper was unsafe for employees.

The Toronto Fire Department issued four work orders and the ministry 25 following inspections requested by reporter Peter Moon, who was acting on behalf of the unit health and safety committee.

Blowing the whistle got action much faster than years of talking to management, committee chairperson Dennis Anderson told S.O.N.G. Sheet.

"We've been complaining about some of the problems since 1977, when they started bringing in the VDTs," Anderson said.

Problems dating from the VDT installation include trip hazards such as inappropriately placed electrical boxes and lines of coaxial cable on the floor, Anderson said.

The fire department ordered a widening of aisles between desks, the clearing of an obstructed corridor and the removal of a deadlock on a fire door, insisting that the lock on the fire escape door be drilled out before inspectors left the building.

The report of the labour ministry, which was prepared by inspector Bryan Powers and which Powers asked management to post, said "the largest portion of the orders issued seem to be a result of untidy work practices and a lack of regular, efficient maintenance housekeeping standards."

The report also urged employees to take more responsibility for ensuring that safety standards are met in the workplace.

Although it was Moon, acting for the Guild, who called the inspectors, Anderson said, "any employee could have and probably should have called" to complain about the conditions.

Now, Anderson said, some management representatives are telling employees to "blame Moon" for the disruption caused by the company's efforts to comply with the work orders.

Although the Globe would probably make a page-one story of it if it learned a major employer had been warned of an impending health and safety inspection, management was annoyed at not having been tipped off about the inspectors' visit, Anderson said.

However, Globe unit chairperson Dan Westell said, the brass seems to be cooling down a little.

"I think they were a little bit miffed at first, but then, so were we," Westell said. "Things had gone on for a long time."

Management has set up a newsroom renovation committee and "has recognized they had a problem," Westell said. "Their response has been very good, from my point of view."

Free exams, glasses said 'in' for VDTs

"Latest employee benefit in many newspapers is yearly eye exams and free prescription glasses for those working at video display terminals," according to the July 6 issue of Association Trends.

"Lingering but probably irrational fears about radiation from VDTs make computer jobs a morale problem, and several newspapers have countered with the added benefits," the publication says.

For "details" it refers readers to the Newspaper Personnel Relations Assn., an adjunct of the American Newspaper Publishers Assn.

Electronic libraries replacing dailies' 'morgues'

(Continued from Page 1)

by the middle of this year to 15 on-line data bases; the six newspapers using Vu/Text library service plus three other newspapers, including the Washington Post.

Other data bases include "QL/Search," itself a network of 80 Canadian data bases. Another provides bibliographic business information and summaries of major articles from business and management publications plus a service that quotes on a 15-minute delayed basis the stock prices of all companies listed on the New York and American stock exchanges, as well as market summaries. And more.

All those data bases are available to newspapers using Vu/Text as a library network.

The six newspapers using the Vu/Text library system in mid-1984 were the Philadelphia Inquirer and Daily News, the Miami Herald and the Lexington Herald-Leader—all Knight-Ridder papers—plus the Allentown Call, just purchased by the Times Mirror Co. of Los Angeles, and the Sacramento Bee, flagship of the McClatchy chain.

The Gary Post-Tribune, a Guild paper, and the Journal of Commerce, both Knight-Ridder papers, have begun "test transmission" of their news stories to Vu/Text's computer in Philadelphia.

Leach mentioned four other Knight-Ridder papers "lining up for entry into Vu/Text:" the San Jose Mercury News, the Akron Beacon Journal, the Long Beach Press Telegram—all Guild papers—and the Wichita Eagle-Bacon.

The Tribune Company of Chicago recently announced it will use Vu/Text as the electronic library system for its eight newspapers, including the Guild-represented New York Daily News, the Chicago Tribune and three newspapers each in California and Florida. In addition, the Tribune Syndicate will market the Vu/Text library and subscriber services to newspapers around the country.

LEACH ASKED rhetorically why a newspaper would store its library in Vu/Text computer banks rather than build an in-house electronic library. "The answer," he said, "is quite simply one of cost." A newspaper deciding to build its own library would wind up spending $400,000 for computer programs, the computer and people to maintain and run the system.

(Leach's estimate for an individual newspaper's electronic library appeared considerably higher than the Software Consulting Services price of $65,000 for a small library system—without employees to maintain and run it.)

Vu/Text can provide library storage and retrieval by computer for $15,000 to $40,000 a year, Leach said. Those figures include the following from Vu/Text's rate card: $2,500 initiation fee; monthly storage fees of $10 per megabyte (1,000,000 characters), reduced by $2 for each subsequent year until reaching a fee of $4 for data three years old or older; a basic fee of $100 per update of up to 1,000,000 characters (with some discounts allowed) and a $25 hourly charge for the newspaper to tap into its own data base.

Vu/Text has 600 subscribers, Leach said, adding: "We confidently expect more than 1,000 by year's end."

Subscribers who guarantee to use Vu/Text for at least one hour a month (or pay a monthly minimum of $60) can call up newspaper data bases for $60 per hour (except the Washington Post and Miami Herald which cost $75 hourly) plus other data bases for fees ranging from $30 to $250 hourly, without paying a connect fee. The other subscriber option is to pay a one-time connect fee of $25 and hourly charges, without a monthly minimum, of $90 for any of the newspaper data bases and $30 to $295 hourly for other data bases.

Vu/Text is available over the GT&E Telenet network, a local phone call from most points in the United States.

THE MCCLATCHY chain is expected to use Vu/Text as the library system for its five newspapers, Leach said. The Anchorage Daily News is to be the next of its papers into Vu/Text. The Fresno and Modesto Bees, both Guild papers, are to come into the Vu/Text system next year.

Each of the papers markets its Vu/Text data base in its circulation area, increasing the number of Vu/Text subscribers, Leach explained.

By the end of the year, he said, "we think we will have a critical mass of regional and national information that will attract a large number of subscribers and other newspapers to our service."

Vu/Text pays a monthly royalty of 50 percent of gross billings for the use of each owner's data base.

Leach said, however, that newspapers cannot fire the librarian "who used to clip and file the paper."

After clipping was eliminated from the Philadelphia Inquirer and Daily News library, four of the 11 library staffers "are still involved in checking over the electronic version of the newspaper stories to make sure it matches what has actually been published," he explained. "They also add key words to aid in searching."

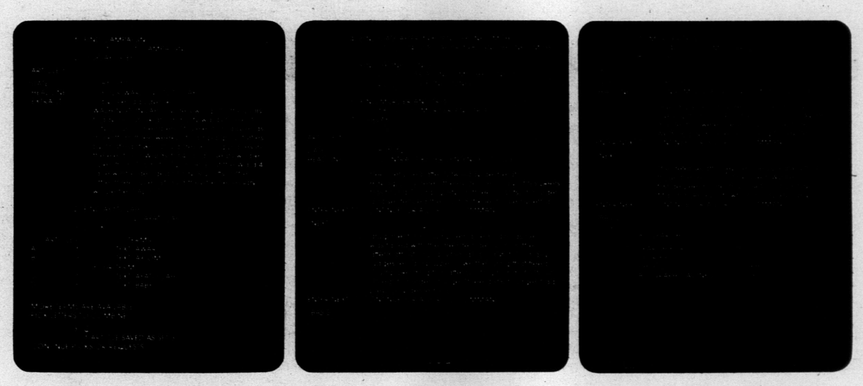
"The rest of the library staff now has time to do what librarians are supposed to do," Leach asserted. "They help reporters to research the background to stories they are writing."

The Lexington Guild recently won upgradings for the librarian and assistant librarian to parity with reporters and photographers on the argument that the Herald-Leader library staff's involvement with Vu/Text called for parity. The Guild also has bargained an upgrading for librarians in San Jose, lined up to go into the Vu/Text system.

Generally reporters have access to the Vu/Text network on their own VDTs. In Lexington, reporters and editors gain access to Vu/Text on library terminals in the newsroom and the library. A new VDT system soon to be installed will enable reporters and editors there to have access to Vu/Text on their own VDTs.

One searches for information on the Vu/Text system by using "key words" or names to elicit data.

The Associated Press, Leach announced, has contracted to use Vu/Text as the library system for the major wires on its "Datastream" service.



Examples of 'electronic clips' as displayed on VDT screens. Reproduced from a sales brochure for the BASIS system.

AP bureaus around the country will be able to look up any story that appeared on those wires.

Leach also reported that Vu/Text will begin using AP's "SATPAC" service satellite for telecommunications with newspapers using Vu/Text. AP is converting receive-only antennas to permit transmissions as well. Newspapers will be able to use SATPAC to transmit copy to the Vu/Text computer and to retrieve past AP stories on terminals linked to SATPAC, resulting in "substantially lower telecommunications costs for newspapers that use the Vu/Text library system," said Leach.

ROBERT J. Farquhar, director of new systems for the Oklahoma Publishing Co., publisher of the Oklahoma City Times and Daily Oklahoman, described that firm's "DataTimes" as an emerging "commercial electronic network of independent publishers." This network also seeks to automate newspaper libraries and market the resulting data bases to subscribers and to do so the publishing company recently acquired Datatek.

During the conference, Datatek announced that the Dallas Morning News will join DataTimes this summer. Currently DataTimes has the computer news files of the two Oklahoma City newspapers available for 70 subscribers, mostly in Oklahoma. Farquhar said the number of subscribers is expected to double by the end of the year, adding $150,000 in annual income to the publishing company.

Datatek also announced that the Baton Rouge (La.) States-Times and Morning Advocate and the Seattle Times are committed to joining DataTimes this fall.

In addition to the Oklahoman and Times data bases, DataTimes provides access to one electronic service that offers financial and background information on publicly traded Oklahoma corporations, another that tracks all bills in progress in the Oklahoma legislature and a third that provides statistical data on Oklahoma high school football, basketball and baseball. Datatek also markets the sports service, SportsTrak, to individual newspapers for purchase prices of $20,000 for less than 75,000 circulation, $30,000 for 75,000 to 150,000 circulation and $45,000 for more than 150,000 circulation.

Coaches who provide information on easy-to-use reporting forms are rewarded with a weekly mailing of statistics for their teams and others in their conferences.

The costs for a newspaper using DataTimes to automate its library are similar to those charged by Vu/Text. Subscribers are charged $35 per hour for access to DataTimes.

DataTimes also pays to a data-base supplier half of the charges made to subscribers for access to the supplier's data base.

Farquhar said that the Oklahoma City papers began unloading their news files directly from their front end system into the new electronic library computer system installed in November 1981. DataTimes also has a microfilm service containing an index of the newspaper stories published by the Oklahoma City newspapers as far back as the 1930s.

Neither Vu/Text nor DataTimes has stories on-line that were published before the system was created or before a newspaper joined the system. Newspapers could feed old clippings into the library-network's computer but none has chosen to do so because of the expense involved, explained a Vu/Text representative. If a reporter wants to check old files, he or she has to revert to those frayed, brittle, yellowed and coffee-stained clippings.

Vu/Text would sign up a newspaper wishing only to automate its library but not have the resultant data base marketed or made available to subscribers. The cost to the newspaper would be the same, and the newspaper would be denying itself the potential revenue from other subscribers calling up the newspaper's electronic library "clips."

SOFTWARE Consulting Services of Bethlehem, Pa., unveiled for the conference and exposition two electronic library systems for an individual newspaper.

One, called "TEQLIB," has four terminals and sells for $65,000. The other, called "SIRE," has eight terminals and sells for $130,000. Both come comlpete with computer hardware and software.

The Daily Press of Newport, Va., where the Guild represents editorial employees, has indexed three vears of historical data on the TEQLIB system.

Storage for TEQLIB is provided by off-line data bases. Since the system operates without texts of articles on line, TEQLIB indexes a newspapers' library files. The librarian indexes articles by using key phrases and names. Articles can be retrieved from storage in a separate computer by calling them up by using the key phrase or name, or even writer's byline.

SIRE is a storage and retrieval system containing full-text articles on line. It automatically indexes articles by important words in the text, although the librarian can add or highlight the key words and names in the text by which the article may be called up.

Software Consulting does not send out a sales representative to market its systems. Instead it sends a manual and an International Business Machine-compatible computer disk with a demonstration program, including a sample data file, which allows prospective customers to conduct their own demonstrations—at a cost of $60 to the prospective customer for the manual and disk.

Vu/Text operates on software developed by QL in Canada which had library systems operating at the Toronto Globe and Mail as long ago as 1977.

The Globe and Mail library system, the Infomart text and storage retrieval system, operated jointly by the Toronto Star and Southam, and the New York Data Bank—all long established systems—were not shown.

New table lists library minimums at 114 dailies

TOP MINIMUMS for library jobs covered by Guild contracts with daily newspapers are listed in a new tabulation prepared by TNG's Collective Bargaining Dept.

Leading the table of top and flat minimums for library jobs found in 100 Guild contracts in effect August 1 is a top minimum of $927.54 a week for the New York Times' chief librarian. The 100 contracts cover employees of 114 dailies.

The tabulation, currently listing 204 minimums, will be revised bimonthly and distributed to locals along with TNG's other tables of minimum salaries in effect under Guild contracts.

Nineteen of the minimums in the first table exceeded $600 a week, and 44, or 22 percent, were in excess of $500.

Nearly half—93 or 46 percent—of the minimums were $400 a week or more.

At right are the minimums for the jobs as of August 1. The results of settlements since and deferred increases effective in the interim are not included.

	Minimum	After
New York Times		
Chief librarian	$927.54	6 mos.
Researcher librarian	730.23	4 yrs.
Asst. reference librarian	566.15	3 yrs.
Morgue indexer, morgue picture indexer	534.78	3 yrs.
Morgue counter asst., program documentation library clerk	506.49	3 yrs.
EDP tape library clerk	409.94	2 yrs.
New York Post		
Head librarian	782.15	flat
Asst. head librarian	662.00	3 yrs.
Librarian	[1]524.00	3 yrs.
Library clerk	[1]440.65	3 yrs.
St. Paul Pioneer Press and Dispatch		
Head librarian	739.20	5 yrs.
Library assts.	315.36	4 yrs.
New York Daily News		
Head asst. librarian	694.54	3 yrs.
Library reader, library technician	505.61	3 yrs.
Asst. librarian	465.83	3 yrs.
Librarian file	394.99	3 yrs.
Tape librarian	367.65	3 yrs.
Ottawa Citizen		
Chief librarian	685.61	flat
Librarian	642.45	2 yrs.
Asst. librarian	425.97	2 yrs.
Toronto Star		
Librarian	670.67	5 yrs.
Asst. librarian	555.14	3 yrs.
Library asst.	442.52	4 yrs.
Library clerk	409.55	3 yrs.
Clerk in library	356.92	3 yrs.
Seattle Post Intelligencer		
Chief librarian	667.55	3 yrs.
Asst. librarian	520.07	3 yrs.
Library indexers	464.95	3 yrs.
Library clerks	440.80	3 yrs.
San Francisco Chronicle and Examiner		
Head librarian	659.17	6 yrs.
Asst. head librarian	549.86	2 yrs.
Librarian (marker)	429.44	2 yrs.
Library clerk	383.06	2 yrs.
Santa Rosa Press Democrat		
Head librarian, asst. librarian	659.17	6 yrs.
St. Louis Post-Dispatch		
Head librarian in reference dept.	647.75	5 yrs.
Asst. librarian in reference dept.	483.91	5 yrs.
Reference dept. librarians	374.87	4 yrs.
Washington Post		
Librarian	640.75	2 yrs.
Asst. librarian (night)	431.25	3 yrs.
Asst. librarians and researchers	361.90	3 yrs.
Library assts.	308.65	2 yrs.
Denver Post		
Librarian	635.00	5 yrs.
Asst. librarian	499.00	3½ yrs.
Library tech. III	396.00	3½ yrs.
Research asst.	374.00	3½ yrs.
Library tech. II	336.00	3½ yrs.
Library tech. I	303.00	3½ yrs.
Denver Rocky Mountain News		
Librarian	635.00	5 yrs.
Asst. librarian	357.00	4 yrs.
Library clerks	313.00	3 yrs.
Sacramento Bee		
Librarian	620.00	flat
Asst. librarian	435.15	flat
Library clerks I	407.88	4 yrs.
Library clerks	347.91	3 yrs.
Montreal Gazette		
Librarian	616.00	4 yrs.
Asst. librarian	452.00	3 yrs.
Clerk library	390.00	3 yrs.
Toledo Blade		
Head librarian	604.54	flat
Librarians I	419.60	3 yrs.
Librarians II	397.62	3 yrs.
Long Beach Press-Telegram		
Head librarian	598.00	flat
Library clerks	393.75	3 yrs.
Buffalo Evening News		
Librarian	595.91	flat
Library asst.	293.32	5 yrs.
Tacoma News Tribune		
Librarian	587.60	5 yrs.
Library assts.	366.10	4 yrs.
Oakland Tribune		
Librarian	582.28	flat
Asst. librarian	485.22	2 yrs.
Library clerks	335.57	2 yrs.
Akron Beacon Journal		
Chief librarian	580.00	4 yrs.
Library clerks	315.00	3 yrs.
Chicago Sun-Times		
Reference librarians	573.97	5 yrs.
Library classifiers	487.32	4 yrs.
Library assts.	447.13	4 yrs.
Minneapolis Star & Tribune		
Library night supervisor	564.50	4 yrs.
Library classifiers	401.50	4 yrs.
Library assts.	319.50	2 yrs.
Windsor Star		
Librarian	560.18	3 yrs.
Library asst.	416.76	3 yrs.
Manchester Union Leader		
Chief librarian	554.75	1 yr.
Librarians	407.00	2 yrs.
Sacramento Union		
Librarians	553.60	4 yrs.
Library clerks	295.08	1½ yrs.
Victoria Times-Colonist		
Asst. librarian	548.16	1 yr.
Library asst. II (indexing)	421.66	flat
Library asst. I	368.95	2 yrs.
Vancouver Sun and Province		
Jr. librarian	545.12	flat
Library asst.	499.75	flat
Library clerk II	434.52	1½ yrs.
Library clerk I	394.94	1 yr.
Modesto Bee		
Librarian	[2]530.00	4 yrs.
Asst. librarian	425.00	4 yrs.
Eugene Register-Guard		
Librarian	525.60	5 yrs.
Toronto Globe & Mail		
Asst. librarian	520.39	4 yrs.
Librarian asst.	427.74	4 yrs.
Library clerk	342.82	3 yrs.
Seattle Times		
Asst. librarian	512.75	3 yrs.
Library indexers and research specialist	472.00	4 yrs.
Library assistants and information clerks	448.50	4 yrs.
Detroit Free Press		
Librarian	505.89	4 yrs.
Library reference clerk	371.61	4 yrs.
Lansing State Journal		
Chief librarian	496.68	5 yrs.
Scranton Tribune		
Librarian	491.20	3 yrs.
Library clerk	221.04	flat
Detroit News		
Degree librarian	490.17	4 yrs.
Reference clerk	288.89	3 yrs.
San Jose Mercury-News		
Librarians	486.50	4 yrs.
Rockford Register Star		
Chief librarian	475.06	5 yrs.
Librarians	341.30	3 yrs.
Lowell Sun		
Librarian	461.00	4 yrs.
Library aide	284.12	3 yrs.
Albany Times-Union and Knickerbocker News		
Head librarian	456.50	flat
Asst. librarian	360.95	3 yrs.
Philadelphia Inquirer and Daily News		
Library classifiers	455.54	4 yrs.
Library assts.	383.93	5 yrs.
Stockton, Calif., Record		
Librarian	422.05	flat
Library clerks	308.98	2 yrs.
Scranton Times		
Head librarian	417.86	3 yrs.
Asst. librarians	319.54	3 yrs.
Library clerks	270.38	3 yrs.
Waukegan News-Sun		
Librarian	416.52	3 yrs.
Asst. librarians	407.49	3 yrs.
Honolulu Advertiser and Star-Bulletin		
Asst. librarian	415.92	2 yrs.
Library classifiers	384.67	4 yrs.
Library clerks	355.37	4 yrs.
San Diego Union and Tribune		
Asst. librarian	412.41	flat
Library assts.	[3]387.41	4 yrs.
Library technicians	357.54	3 yrs.
Harrisburg Patriot and News		
Librarian	411.66	2 yrs.
Librarian clerk	285.94	2 yrs.
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette		
Librarian	409.00	2 yrs.
Asst. librarian	397.00	2 yrs.
Library clerks	330.00	3 yrs.
Monterey Peninsula Herald		
Librarian	408.00	4 yrs.
Library clerks	358.00	3 yrs.
San Mateo Times & News Leader		
Head librarian	406.36	3 yrs.
Librarian	396.36	3 yrs.
Baltimore Sun and Evening Sun		
Asst. librarian	403.00	5 yrs.
Sr. library clerk	374.00	5 yrs.
Asst. Sr. library clerk	344.00	5 yrs.
Library marker	330.00	5 yrs.
Library asst.	300.00	5 yrs.
Fresno Bee		
Library assts.	400.33	4 yrs.
Cincinnati and Kentucky Post		
Librarians	396.00	4 yrs.
Asst. librarian	340.44	3 yrs.
York Dispatch		
Librarian	[4]394.22	2½ yrs.
Delaware County (Pa.) Times		
Librarians	388.55	4 yrs.
Lexington Herald-Leader		
Librarian, asst. librarian	385.00	4 yrs.
Library asst.	233.00	3 yrs.
Cleveland Plain Dealer		
Asst. chief librarian	383.25	3 yrs.
Library clerk	307.75	3 yrs.
Portland Press Herald and Express		
Librarian	374.18	flat
Asst. librarian	284.27	4 yrs.
Hamilton Spectator		
Asst. librarian	372.00	2 yrs.
Library clerical	282.00	2 yrs.
Brantford Expositor		
Librarian	360.25	4 yrs.
Sheboygan Press		
Head librarian	359.82	flat
Librarian	287.03	3 yrs.
Great Falls Tribune		
Librarians	359.00	5 yrs.
Gary Post-Tribune		
Librarians	357.54	3 yrs.
San Juan Star		
Librarian	351.33	3 yrs.
Asst. librarian	241.80	4 yrs.
Woodbridge News Tribune		
Librarian	348.09	3 yrs.
Providence Journal and Bulletin		
Library asst.	344.00	3 yrs.
Salem News		
Librarian	339.56	4 yrs.
Allentown Call		
Library asst. I	332.80	2 yrs.
Library asst. II	312.00	2 yrs.
Library asst. III	270.40	1½ yrs.
Library clerk	249.60	1½ yrs.
New Brunswick Home News		
Chief librarian	330.00	1 yr.
Librarian clerks	245.90	1 yr.
Memphis Commercial Appeal		
Librarians	327.65	5 yrs.
Lynn Item		
Librarian	322.55	3 yrs.
St. Louis Globe-Democrat		
Reference room worker	318.56	4 yrs.
Waterbury Republican, American		
Librarian	317.25	2 yrs.
Asst. librarian	262.14	2 yrs.
Duluth News-Tribune & Herald		
Librarian	313.00	4 yrs.
Library clerks	168.00	2 yrs.
Mt. Clemens Macomb Daily		
Librarian	309.61	2 yrs.
Kingston Daily Freeman		
Librarians	309.55	3 yrs.
Fall River Herald-News		
Librarian	308.43	2 yrs.
Oshawa Times		
Librarian	303.06	2 yrs.
Pawtucket Times		
Librarian	295.62	2 yrs.
Peoria Journal Star		
Head librarian	293.00	flat
Library clerk	253.00	2 yrs.
San Antonio Light		
Librarian	289.95	2 yrs.
Indianapolis Star and News		
Library assts.	289.15	3 yrs.
Kenosha News		
Librarian	288.00	5 yrs.
Yakima Herald-Republic		
Librarian	282.50	4 yrs.
Brockton Enterprise		
Librarian	282.05	4 yrs.
Woonsocket Call		
Library	281.85	3 yrs.
Pueblo Chieftain		
Librarian	281.00	3 yrs.
Sudbury Star		
Librarian	270.08	3 yrs.
Columbus Citizen-Journal		
Librarians	260.05	2 yrs.
Battle Creek Enquirer & News		
Librarians	255.00	4 yrs.
Knoxville News-Sentinel		
Head librarian	246.00	4 yrs.
Bristol Press		
Library clerk	244.67	4 yrs.
Youngstown Vindicator		
Library clerks	235.95	2 yrs.
Chattanooga Times		
Librarians	230.00	5 yrs.
Sioux City Journal		
Librarian-clerk	229.01	2 yrs.
Canton Repository		
Library	221.43	3 yrs.
Rochester Democrat & Chronicle and Times-Union		
Library asst.	205.00	3 yrs.
Terre Haute Tribune		
Editorial clerk	172.70	2 yrs.
Morgantown Dominion-Post		
Library clerk	153.98	2 yrs.

[1] If hired before 6/11/81: Librarian, $596.25; Library clerk, $494.60.
[2] Incumbent receives $610.00.
[3] Plus $4 per shift for acting library supervisor.
[4] Plus $5 per week after 10 years, $7 after 15 years service.

Defeat of subminimum wage is urged by Guild delegates

More Convention '84

San Juan—Finding no justification for a "seasonal adjustment" in the minimum wage for teenagers, TNG's 1984 Convention called on Congress to "quickly reject" efforts to lower the minimum wage for any group of workers.

Delegates also adopted resolutions calling for the rejection of legislative proposals to make picket line misconduct by strikers subject to prosecution under a federal anti-extortion statute and a bill that would limit damages workers and consumers can seek from the manufacturers of hazardous products. They also endorsed a bill to ease the impact of plant closures on displaced employees.

Letters and telegrams to senators opposing the "subminimum-wage" and product-liability proposals should be sent to members' senators immediately, U.S. locals were advised early in August by David J. Eisen, TNG director of research and information.

Both measures were expected to come up for action on the Senate floor at any time, he said.

Eisen also called for letters opposing the Hobbs Act amendment, but said that since there was little chance for enactment of the plant-closing legislation "it might be just as well to wait with letters" about it.

On First Amendment-related legislative proposals addressed by the convention [Guild Reporter, July 13], Eisen advised:

✓ Immediate letters to members of the House urging defeat of a bill to broaden exemptions for the CIA to the Freedom of Information Act, H.R. 5164, due for a floor vote in September.

✓ Letters to representatives urging approval without further exemptions of a bill (H.R. 4681) that would reject the Reagan administration's proposal to submit government employees to lifetime prepublication review of anything they might write that involves classified information.

Despite claims by the Reagan administration to the contrary, the reduction of the "already low" U.S. minimum wage of $3.35 "would not result in the creation of jobs that would otherwise go unfilled" but would "more likely result in a decline in the number of adults hired into minimum wage jobs," delegates declared.

The administration has proposed an adjustment in the minimum wage to $2.50 per hour for employees under the age of 20 during the five-month period from May through September.

Efforts to tie the subminimum wage proposal to an education bill that would increase spending for math and science and grant equal access to school facilities to student religious groups were thwarted late in June, however, when several Senators from both sides of the chamber pledged to filibuster.

A minimum wage of $3.35 is a subminimum itself, the convention said, noting that when adjusted for inflation since it took effect in January of 1981, the $3.35 becomes just $2.87.

A further reduction "would be nothing more than legislating the exploitation of teenagers," the convention said.

Efforts by Congress' right-wing and the National Right to Work Committee to extend the Hobbs Act's prohibitions against extortion to picket-line misconduct have been revived by a bill sponsored by Sen. Charles E. Grassley (R-Iowa), the convention pointed out, calling on the Senate Judiciary Committee to defeat the measure and any that may "follow in its image."

The proposed amendments to the federal anti-extortion statue would overturn a 1973 Supreme Court ruling in which the justices held that the Hobbs Act was intended to apply to criminal violence, not to illegal acts that might occur during a legal strike for better working conditions.

"Unlawful acts committed by strikers are best handled under state and local statutes along with those by employers and their agents," the convention said.

Urging the rejection of the Product Liability Act, introduced by Sen. Robert Kasten (R-Wis.), the convention pointed out that the bill would pre-empt state laws under which consumers and workers have collected damages from the manufacturers of defective and unsafe products. It would establish, instead, a federal statute limiting recoverable damages.

"By its narrowly drawn provisions," the Kasten bill (S. 44) "would deprive both workers and consumers of just compensation for illness and injuries due to defective products and discourage product safety," the convention said.

A study released late in July showed that 97 senators received more than $4.7 million in five years from political action committees of more than 300 firms and trade associations supporting the Kasten bill.

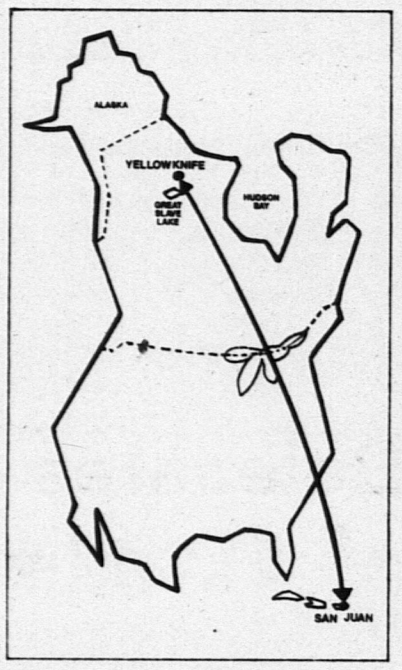
The PAC's combined contributions averaged $904,000 a year to the 97 senators between Jan. 1, 1979 and this April 1, according to the study by Congress Watch, a unit of an organization founded by Ralph Nader. The PAC's sponsors also paid $687,300 in speaking fees to 78 senators from 1981 through 1983, it showed.

Twenty-seven of the 29 senators who received at least $57,400 from the PACs were Republicans.

The larger a senator's receipts from the groups, the more likely he or she publicly supports the bill, the study showed.

Calling for passage of the National Employment Priorities Act, which would require advance notice of plant closures and provide federal loan guarantees and technical assistance to help avoid the need for shutdowns, the delegates noted that the measure is "sorely needed in the suddenly shrinking U.S. newspaper industry."

RAFAEL TRIAS/Puerto Rico



Yellowknife's delegate

Cindy Clegg, above, a Canadian Wire Service Guild delegate to TNG's 1984 Convention, may not have travelled the greatest distance to get to the meeting, but she experienced the greatest climactic change in the process. Clegg is a news editor for the Canadian Broadcasting Corp. in Yellowknife in Canada's Northwest Territories, about 4,000 miles as the crow would fly from San Juan. (Hawaii delegates travelled farther.)

Convention elects elections committee

San Juan—An Int'l Election and Referendum Committee to supervise the conduct of any international elections or other referendum held in the next two years was elected without contest on the opening day of TNG's 1984 Convention.

Re-elected to the committee were Robert A. Steinke of St. Louis, Michele Davis of San Diego, Jerry MacDonald of the Canadian Wire Service Guild and Richard Brandow of New York. William Buchanan of Erie, formerly an alternate, was also elected to the five-member committee.

Alternates elected by the convention are Jim Schaufenbil of Manchester and Ernie Mercer of Washington-Baltimore.

At a post-convention organizational meeting, Steinke was re-elected as the committee's chairperson and Buchanan was elected secretary.

TNG's Constitution requires that an IERC be selected by convention in even-numbered years. International officers are elected in odd-numbered years.

Seminar alumni among convention chairs

Chairpersons of six of the 11 committees of the Guild's 1984 had attended TNG's residential seminar for new local officers during one of the last three years.

From the seminar "class of '82" were Beth Tamke of Memphis and Jim Schaufenbil of Manchester, who led the convention's Rules and Constitution committees respectively.

From the "class of '83" were Richard Christian of Buffalo, Rules; Linda K. Foley of Lexington, Resolutions; and Tom LaPoint of Albany, Organizing.

From this year's seminar was Patrice Courtney of Kingston, who chaired the convention's Human Rights Committee.

Courtney, in a post-convention letter to TNG Sec'y-Treasurer Charles Dale, expressed her appreciation at having had the opportunity to serve in the Human Rights chair, adding that the experience had sent her home "revved up and ready to organize the rest of our workplace," the Ingersoll chain's Daily Freeman.

Another member of the "class of '84," Robin Scott of the reorganized Hampton Roads (Norfolk) Guild, in a note to TNG President Charles A. Perlik, Jr., expressing his thanks for having been a guest at the convention, sounded a similar note.

"It was great to see the Guild at work . . . and to meet so many of the people who give strength to our union," he wrote. The "ideas and inspiration" gained will be useful in the local's contract bargaining with the Landmark chain's Ledger-Star and Virginia-Pilot.

[Next year's local officers' seminar will be held Feb. 15-18, again over the George Washington's Birthday weekend and again at the George Meany Center for Labor Studies in the Washington suburb of Silver Spring, Md.]

Patrice Courtney, *Kingston*

Robin Scott, *Hampton Roads*

IT SEEMS TO US

VP Stonebanks adds point on politics report

VICTORIA, B.C.

Editor:

The Guild Reporter (July 13), in its report on the political action debate at the convention, omitted to say that the First Minority Report not only said that endorsements should only be made by membership referendum but that "such referendum shall include the option of 'no endorsement'."

This point also seemed to be lost on some delegates if one contrasts the comments on Page 5 of the GR with the voting record on Page 4.

Those in the Guild who wish to see membership participation in endorsements, and those in the Guild who wish us to have nothing to do with endorsements, would both have been served by the First Minority Report.

ROGER L. STONEBANKS
TNG Vice President
Western Canada

By TNG convention action, letters shall be limited to 200 words and shall avoid libel and subjects detrimental to the Guild. Members subjected to personal attack shall be given opportunity to reply in the same issue, but publication of either attack or reply shall not be delayed longer than one issue. Deadline, Friday before publication.

Canadian Policy Conference proposing nation-wide district council

Dan Oldfield of the Canadian Wire Service Guild, left, presides over the 1984 meeting of TNG's Canadian Policy Conference, held immediately before TNG's convention in Puerto Rico. The conference voted to recommend re-establishment of a Canadian District Council of Guild locals and assigned TNG's Canadian vice presidents and staff to draft by-laws for submission to the locals. The action, moved by TNG Vice President Roger L. Stonebanks of Victoria, seated right above, and seconded by Roy Tubbs of Vancouver-New Westminster, also provides that the council would meet twice a year, that the Canadian Policy Conference be held at one of the meetings and that a travel pool be devised to average costs of delegate attendance at council meetings. Others pictured above are, from left: Roy Tubbs, Jim Young and Dean Tkatschow of Vancouver-New Westminster and, standing, Joe Ravick of Victoria.

TORTURE IN THE EIGHTIES

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Political suspects and other prisoners in the 1980s suffer torture and ill-treatment in nearly 100 countries around the world, from the security headquarters in Turkey to the prison cells of Iran, from secret centers in Chile to special psychiatric hospitals in the Soviet Union. This latest report from Amnesty International confronts allegations of torture and spells out a 12 point program for its abolition.

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Campaign to wipe out torture wins convention endorsement

San Juan — Amnesty International's stepped up campaign against torture won the endorsement of TNG's 51st Annual Convention, which also called on Guild locals to assist in the effort to eradicate torture by governments throughout the world by joining Amnesty International's "Urgent Action Network."

More Convention '84

Through the Urgent Action Network, Amnesty International seeks letters of concern over specific incidents of torture to governments responsible for the acts.

Communications generated through similar networks "have proved successful in the past in alleviating the plight of torture victims and even in gaining their release," the convention said, pointing out that the victims of torture include political activists, unionists, journalists, teachers, students and children.

In announcing its expanded campaign against torture earlier this year, Amnesty International noted that nearly one-third of the world's governments have been responsible for incidents of torture in this decade, despite nearly universal condemnation of the insidious practice.

Amnesty seeks government implementation of a 12-point program to abolish torture and the judicial structure in which it breeds.

Among its recommendations, Amnesty International is urging governments to prohibit acts of torture and prosecute any persons who engage in it. It also recommends that incommunicado detention of prisoners be banned, and that judicial proceedings be conducted promptly.

Vice mayor's life shaped by strike

San Juan—Luis Batista Salas, vice mayor of San Juan, told TNG's 1984 Convention that it was as a Guild member that he made "a decision that put me in public life ever since."

A month after beginning a reporting job at San Juan's El Mundo and joining the Puetro Rico Guild in 1965, the local struck the daily and "I had to make a tough decision," Batista recalled.

With five months to go before his job became permanent, Batista faced the prospect of continuing to work, as "my boss wanted," or joining his colleagues, who were on strike.

"I decided for my friends and joined the picket line," Batista said to delegates' cheers.

Delegates urge revival of chain-limiting bill

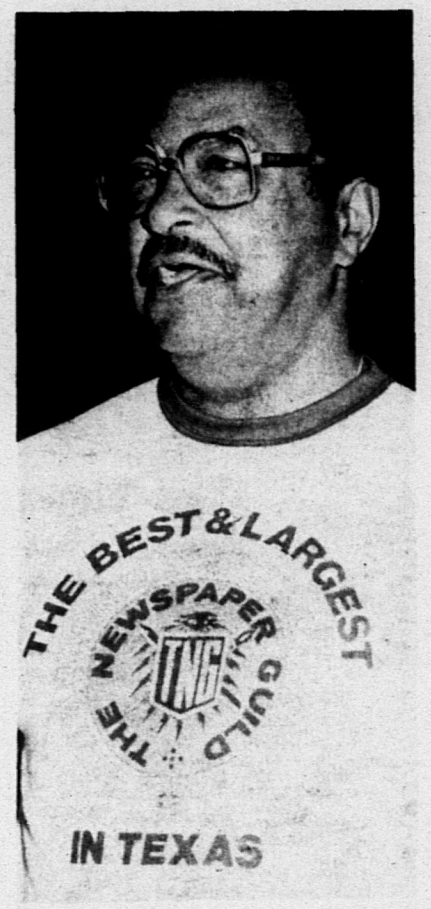
San Juan—"A press controlled nationally by two or three conglomerates cannot be a truly free and diverse press," delegates to TNG's 1984 convention observed in calling on the Canadian government to revive the proposed Canada Daily Newspaper Act and "move vigorously" to enact it.

The bill, as drafted last year, "would have been a minimal step to halt . . . the concentration of ownership" of Canada's daily newspapers, the convention pointed out. The government's decision to "abandon" the bill was "unfortunate," it said.

With the exception of objections to provision for the establishment of a national press council to investigate complaints against daily newspapers, the "hue and cry" of publishers about the proposed legislation is without justification," the delegates said.

The establishment of regional press councils throughout Canada, the convention said, "makes a government-sponsored council at best superfluous and at worst an intrusion by government into the news dissemination process."

The bill would not require any divesture, even by the giant Thomson and Southam chains that between them control nearly 50 percent of national daily circulation, but would "only prevent future acquisitions by these chains," the convention said, noting that both the Kent Commission, which provided the impetus for the proposed legislation, and TNG had advocated divesture.



San Antonio shirt

Delegates from throughout the Guild were sporting T-shirts promoting the San Antonio Guild after the local's delegates set up shop outside the San Juan convention hall to make them available—for a price. In the shirt above is John Mitchell of Gary.

Council conference elects its officers

San Juan—Ernie Mercer, president of the Washington-Baltimore Guild, was elected chairperson and William (Bucky) Buchanan, president of the Erie Guild, was re-elected secretary of the Conference of Councils at its annual pre-convention meeting on June 17. They were elected unopposed.

Frank Prosnitz of the Providence Guild did not seek re-election as chairperson.

Frankland, head of IAPE, addresses Guild delegates

San Juan — Eric Frankland, president of the Independent Assn. of Publishers' Employees Inc. (IAPE), brought greetings from the unaffiliated union's governing body to delegates to TNG's 1984 Convention here.

While noting that he was attending the convention as "an observer," not an official representative of IAPE, Frankland passed on the gratitude of IAPE's officers for assistance TNG provided their organization in its last round of bargaining with Dow Jones & Co. IAPE represents nearly 2,000 editorial and commercial employees of the Wall Street Journal and Barron's.

"Simply by its existence," the Guild "has an amazing influence" in bargaining with Dow Jones and other non-Guild publishers, Frankland said.

The "open debate, sharp dissent and the uplifting spirit of genuine self-government" that took place at TNG's convention "feels tremendously stimulating," Frankland told the delegates.

He attended TNG's convention at the invitation of TNG President Charles A. Perlik, Jr., who noted in introducing him that Frankland is a former member of Guild locals in Boston and Los Angeles, where he was a vice president, and that he still maintains membership in Britain's National Union of Journalists.

Eric Frankland
Speaking to TNG convention

Labor's San Francisco parade draws 160,000

Adapted from the AFL-CIO News

San Francisco — One of the greatest labor parades in this city's colorful history celebrated the 50th anniversary of the San Francisco general strike and showed delegates to the Democratic National Convention what union solidarity is all about.

More than 160,000 union members from virtually every organized trade and occupation—including representatives of TNG and at least three Guild locals plus printers, mailers and pressmen—took part in the four-hour parade through downtown San Francisco and in the giant rally at Civic Center Plaza that followed, both on the day before the political convention began.

Some of them rode on fire engines, others on bulldozers and construction cranes, and still others on colorful floats. Some propelled themselves the length of the parade route in wheelchairs.

Mostly they marched behind the banners of their unions, carrying their messages in a sea of placards.

The message that came across most vividly was that San Francisco is still a union town—just as it was on July 16, 1934, when nearly all the city's workers turned out to support the cause of a two-month strike by dock workers and seamen against a union-busting employer's alliance. Two pickets had been fatally shot and the National Guard had been called up.

For the next four days, the city was shut tight and nothing moved without special clearance from the central labor council's general strike committee.

The chairman of that committee was Harry Bridges, once a figure of controversy, but now the guest of honor at this great parade. Bridges, who helped found and for years headed the unaffiliated Longshoremen & Warehousemen, was five days from his 83rd birthday and the crowd at the plaza rally joined in a "happy birthday" song.

It was that kind of a day, with bagpipe bands led by kiddie majorettes, families marching together with an older child pushing a stroller for a toddler.

There were iron workers and letter carriers, insulators and telephone workers, machinists and seafarers, public sector workers and service employees and some 200 printing trades and Guild members.

Store clerks came fresh from the picket line at a large department store and three busloads of Phelps Dodge strikers came from Arizona.

AFL-CIO President Lane Kirkland and Sec'y-Treasurer Thomas R. Donahue marched at the head of the parade, along with Executive Sec'y-Treasurer John F. Henning of the California AFL-CIO, the leaders of the area central bodies, and state and regional officials of two unaffiliated unions that had key roles in the 1934 strike—the Teamsters and the West Coast Longshoremen.

Presidents of several AFL-CIO unions, including TNG's Charles A. Perlik, Jr., marched with members of their unions' area locals, including the San Francisco-Oakland, San Jose and Bakersfield Guilds.

A sea of placards, many of them hand-made, left no doubt of the labor movement's unity against the Reagan administration policies.

The sponsoring groups had intended the celebration as nonpartisan, but the buoyant union members chanted their preferences for the Mondale-Ferraro ticket all along the parade route.

At the Civic Center Plaza, where the line of march ended, Kirkland spoke of the battle for union rights half a century ago—and of the battle still going on.

Violence against workers exercising their union rights was overcome in San Francisco 50 years ago, but it is being faced today by hotel strikers in Las Vegas, Phelps Dodge strikers in Arizona and others elsewhere, Kirkland pointed out.

Throughout the industrial scene, he said, the mission of the new "labor-management consultant" is the same as that of an earlier era's "hired goon." It is "to bust unions and destroy collective bargaining."

Kirkland affirmed labor's demand for "a government that serves the interests of all the people, not just the privileged few."

Ronald Reagan's administration hasn't provided that government, Kirkland said. "So we must do our duty as trade unionists and as citizens by marching to the polls and voting for our ideals and principles."

Honors for labor reporting

Wilf List, right, veteran Globe and Mail labor reporter, accepts a pen with which to autograph an "agenda" during dinner at which the executive boards of the Canadian Labour Congress and the Canadian Assn. of Labour Media/ACPS honored him for his years of reporting on the nation's labor movement. The dinner was held during the CLC's convention, the last List will cover as he plans to retire the end of this year. Others pictured are, from left: Linda Torney of the Southern Ontario Guild; TNG Canadian Director William H. McLeman; TNG Vice President Lee C. Clifford (obscured); and Ethel List.

AFL-CIO's board plans for election

Denver—President Charles A. Perlik, Jr., will represent TNG when the AFL-CIO General Board meets here Aug. 19 "to prepare for the election campaign and to mobilize labor's support for endorsed candidates at all level's," as AFL-CIO President Lane Kirkland put it in calling the meeting.

The general board consists of the president or other principal officer of each AFL-CIO-affiliated union and department plus the AFL-CIO Executive Council. The principal officer of each state union federation and local central body also has been invited to the session here.

OSHA head's recess appointment draws protests from labor, others

Washington — President Reagan's appointment during the recent congressional recess of Robert A. Rowland to head the Occupational Safety & Health Administration has met with protests from both inside and outside the Senate.

Reagan announced the recess appointment several days before Congress was to return from the recess surrounding the Democratic Convention. Rowland fills the vacancy created by Thorne G. Auchter's resignation from the position earlier this year.

Several senators expressed reservations about Rowland's qualifications to head the health and safety agency and were sharply critical of the administration for bypassing the Senate confirmation process.

The AFL-CIO called Rowland "completely unqualified" to fill the post.

Rowland had been named to chair the Occupational Safety & Health Review Commission after serving in the Reagan-Bush 1980 campaign.

An attorney, Rowland has specialized in tax law in private practice and served as an assistant attorney general of Texas in the late 1950s.

"Enforcement of worker safety and health laws has suffered greatly under this administration's agenda of regulatory abdication," Sen. Donald W. Riegle (D-Mich.) charged, noting that "in replacing a management consultant with a management lawyer, President Reagan has continued his frequent practice of placing people in these types of positions who do not enforce the law."

A review of Rowland's record as chair of the Occupational Safety & Health Review Commission "should concern citizens even more" than his "disturbing" lack of experience in the field, Riegle said.

An AFL-CIO analysis of 179 rulings by the commission showed Rowland upholding OSHA inspection action in only 23 cases, while OSHA won majority support in 111 of the cases.

Others voicing opposition to the Rowland appointment included Sen. Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.) who said he could find "no reason to expect" . . . Rowland's performance to be any different than Auchter's and "good reason to believe it could be worse."

DAY BOOK

Ingersoll Chain Council, fall meeting, Oct. 13-14, Philadelphia.

International Executive Board, fall meeting, Oct. 22-25, TNG headquarters, Washington.

Western District Council, fall meeting, Oct. 27-28 (tentative), San Francisco.

Southern District Council, fall meeting, Oct. 27-28, Lexington.

Great Lakes District Council, fall meeting, Nov. 3-4 (tentative), Terre Haute, Ind.

52nd Annual Convention, June 24-28, 1985, William Penn Hotel, Pittsburgh.

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