

UMW officials hardsell contract

WASHINGTON (AP) — United Mine Workers (UMW) officials began an extensive campaign Sunday to sell their proposed contract, sending 200,000 copies of the controversial agreement to the coalfields.

"We're sending the copies by trucks, airplanes, any way we can get them to our members," said UMW Pres. Arnold Miller. "I think the rank and file will accept this agreement once they see for themselves what's in it."

Despite vocal opposition from many miners since the tentative agreement was announced Friday night, Miller reiterated his belief that the contract would be accepted by a wide majority.

"I think our members understand that in collective bargaining you don't get everything you want," he said. "This is a contract we can live

with. It guarantees our health and pension benefits and takes a step toward speeding up the grievance procedure."

The union's 160,000 striking miners won't vote on the contract until early next week. While Miller said he does not plan to go to the coalfields and stump for the pact, hundreds of district and local union officials will be attempting to sell the agreement to the miners who will work under its provisions for the next three years.

In addition, the union's public relations firm also plans to promote the proposal with a series of radio and television ads. This media campaign is expected to focus especially upon UMW Districts 29 and 17, in southern West Virginia, the home of nearly 50,000 miners.

The union's educational blitz begins here today, when some 400 representatives from the 21 UMW districts, plus a bevy of rank and file members invited by Miller will congregate at a downtown hotel and hear the terms of the contract spelled out.

The district representatives will go back home and relay the information — emphasizing the positive aspects — to officers of the local unions within their respective districts.

These local officers then will carry the news to the rank and file which, by then, presumably will have received copies of the proposed agreement. Following this, a 48-hour waiting period ensues before the miners can vote. A bare majority is needed for ratification.

Death toll disputed in Iran riot

TABRIZ, Iran (AP) — Riots a week ago in this city near the Soviet frontier have brought to the surface deeply rooted animosity among Moslem leaders toward the Shah of Iran. Disorders could erupt again soon, informants say.

Government officials say the rioting Feb. 18 here in Iran's second largest city left nine persons dead and 125 injured. The cause of the deaths and injuries was not officially reported.

Moslem leaders claim, however, that security forces killed about 300 men, a figure that could not be confirmed by independent observers.

Damage to government buildings, banks and businesses amounted to \$2.5 million, government officials said. About 350 persons, mostly young men, were reported arrested.

"The total damage may not amount to much, but the ferocity in which the rioters aimed their vengeance at government buildings, decorated with emblems of Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi's reign, was frightening," said one resident of this city of almost one million population.

Believed to be at the root of the troubles is the opposition of conservative religious leaders to the shah's efforts to Westernize and modernize this traditional Moslem society.

"Religious leaders of Tabriz also claim that troops shot and killed close to 300 persons in the riots here, as it started near the city's main bazaar and then fanned out quickly," one source said.

World at a glance

From Associated Press Reports

Chlorine cloud 'instant death'

YOUNGSTOWN, Fla. — A freight train piled up near this Florida Panhandle community early Sunday and a ruptured tank car spewed a cloud of deadly chlorine across a busy highway. Authorities said seven persons were killed and at least 67 were hospitalized.

"It was instant death," said Al Smith, an emergency troubleshooter for the Environmental Protection Agency from Atlanta. "The kind of death we're talking about, it literally burns your lungs up."

Automobile engines apparently stalled as the chlorine cut off the oxygen needed for combustion. Cars careened into roadside ditches. Some motorists fled into a swamp near the tracks, only to be enveloped by the searing greenish-yellow cloud.

Park to testify Tuesday

WASHINGTON — Tongsun Park is set to appear before congressional investigators nearly one and a half years after he left Washington amid allegations that he sought to buy influence in Congress for the South Korean government.

Park's scheduled appearance before the House ethics committee on Tuesday was made possible by an agreement between the U.S. and South Korean governments that gave the vice dealer a grant of immunity from criminal prosecution.

Indicted by a federal grand jury last year on 36 counts of bribery and other charges, Park already has undergone extensive interrogation by U.S. prosecutors in Seoul.

Hua plans Taiwan 'liberation'

TOKYO — Standing beneath huge portraits of himself and Mao Tse-tung, Communist Party Chairman Hua Kuo-feng opened China's fifth National People's Congress Sunday by urging military readiness for a takeover of Taiwan.

Hua said the 3.5-million-member People's Liberation Army "must make all the preparations necessary for the liberation of Taiwan," Peking's official Hsinhua news agency reported in a dispatch received here.

Hsinhua's excerpts from Hua's three-and-one-half-hour speech did not amplify on the reference to Taiwan. He and other Peking leaders have called repeatedly for the "liberation" of the island from the Nationalist Chinese who fled there after the Communist Chinese victory in 1949.

Surgery decisions not substantiated

NEW YORK (AP) — A study of elective surgery patients found in one of four cases where a second opinion was sought, the first doctor's recommendation for surgery was not upheld. The findings seem to bolster fears that many operations are performed unnecessarily.

The preliminary results were released Sunday by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Greater New York and were based on 1,500 cases in which subscribers obtained consultation from a second physician.

Of 353 obstetrical-gynecological cases studied, 28.6 percent of the initial recommendations were not confirmed by the consultant. Of 253 orthopedic cases the need for surgery was not confirmed in 33.2 percent of the cases. Of 229 ear, nose and throat cases, 26.6 percent of the recommendations were not confirmed.

The findings are not necessarily conclusive, cautioned Eugene Silbery, executive vice-president of the Blue Cross-Blue Shield plan.

"We are continuing to study the patients to add further data to see how many had operations immediately anyway, how many deferred them for a year or two, or perhaps indefinitely," Silbery said.

"We also want to see what happens to the people who have decided not to have surgery. However, we believe the program is

immediately beneficial if some subscribers are spared pain by not having surgery. In terms of lowering costs, we also anticipate significant savings."

For each operation not performed, Silbery said, the insurance plan saves about \$1,500 in hospital fees. He estimated total savings of \$700,000 in the two years the program has been in effect.

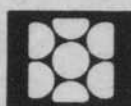
In 1976, the 4.5 million subscribers and dependents in the New York plan were offered the free "second opinions" to double-check the initial recommendations for surgery. However, few have taken advantage of the option.

"The issue of unnecessary elective surgery peaked in 1976, when a congressional subcommittee reported that such surgery costs the country \$4 billion annually, Blue Cross-Blue Shield said.

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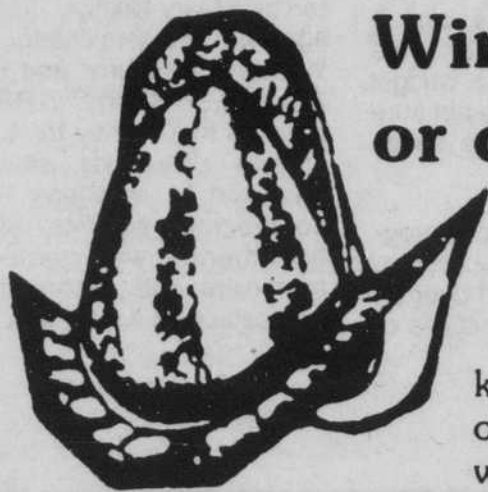
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