Deans: Both Stone, Gleason look to future

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future."

Gleason agreed with Stone in his speech later in the day.

"I want to second his optimism about the future, about the changes we're considering," Gleason said. "For those of us in the school of journalism, a strong liberal arts component is essential to what we do here in terms of a professional education. Many of us are now active participants in the process of change, and I'm confident that we will continue to contribute to the ideas coming out of that process."

Gleason, 47, has been a member of the University journalism faculty since 1987, during which time he has taught classes ranging from reporting and media law to photojournalism and communication research.

In 1990, he was the first recipient of the journalism school's Jonathan Marshall Teaching Award for excellence in teaching. He also received a Poynter Institute for Media Studies Teaching Fellowship for ethics professors in 1992 and was s selected in 1993 to attend the ninth annual Leadership Institute for Journalism and Mass Communication organized by the Freedom Forum Media Studies Center.

Stone, 50, joined the economics department in 1979. He served as senior staff economist on President Reagan's council of economic advisers and senior staff specialist in international trade policy. He was also named the occupant of the University's W.E. Miner Chair in Economics in 1985 and served as chair of the economics department from 1988-92 and associate dean of social sciences in the College of Arts and Sciences from 1992-96.

Japan confronts economic woes

Officials worry that the nation's flagging economy will trigger another Asian crisis

By Martin Crutsinger
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Japan came under increased pressure Wednesday from the United States and other nations to do more to boost its flagging economy, with top finance officials depicting Japan's economic problems as serious and growing worse.

The officials are concerned that troubles in the world's second largest economy could cause renewed financial turmoil in Asia and beyond.

"The challenges facing Japan are serious and have intensified in recent months," the group said in a joint communique.

The economic fallout from the Asian crisis was topic No. 1 during more than five hours of discussions of finance ministers and central bank presidents from the world's seven wealthiest industrial countries — the United States, Japan, Germany, France, Britain, Italy and Canada.

Japan signed off on the communique from the G-7 group.

Financial markets had been wary in advance of Wednesday's meeting, wondering whether the seven nations would embark on a coordinated effort to boost Japan's flagging currency, the yen, by intervening in currency markets.

However, during a mid-afternoon photo break, U.S. Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin told reporters they should expect no policy changes from the group.

Indeed, the language on currencies in the final statement largely tracked wording used when the G-7 officials last met in February in London.

In both statements, the finance ministers and central bank directors said that "excessive volatility" was undesirable. But the new statement made no explicit commitment to intervene and instead said the group supported Japan's efforts to deal with the problem "by stimulating domestic demand-led growth."

That wording echoed comments the Clinton administration has been making with increasing frequency recently as the Japanese economy appeared to be teetering on the brink of a recession.

Bowing to strong foreign pressure, Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto last week proposed a $75 billion package of tax cuts and new government spending aimed at restarting Japan's economy.

While that was the biggest in a series of stimulus efforts attempted by Japan, financial markets have been skeptical, believing it is too late to keep the country out of a recession.

Japanese Finance Minister Hikara Matsuna, speaking to reporters after the G-7 meeting ended, said he gave the group a full explanation of the latest stimulus package.

"They showed understanding," he said.

McDonald's employees hold strike

A group of Ohio teens say their managers yell and cuss at them when they make mistakes

By John Affeck
The Associated Press

MACEDONIA, Ohio — Striking teenage McDonald's workers signed Teamsters cards on the picket line Wednesday.

The workers say they don't like the way managers treat them.

About 15 pickets — employees joined by a few friends on spring break — ate fried chicken from a KFC across the parking lot, yelled as cars drove by and used markers to color in picket signs and make new ones. The restaurant, which has about 45 employees, remained open.

The workers — who were six strong when they started what may be the first strike in the United States against McDonald's — say managers yell and cuss at them when they make mistakes.

"You get called jerks and stupid," said Melissa Dowdell, 17, whose sign said "Honk for support." "There's a lot of profanity."

Officials at the restaurant about 20 miles southeast of Cleveland declined to comment and referred questions to a regional office in Independence. A telephone message was left.

Dwight Bungo, a consultant for Oak Brook, Ill.-based McDonald's, on Tuesday said he would work with the employees to resolve problems.

The strike began Sunday, in part because workers said the company ignored the requests of some to be off on Easter.

About 20 McDonald's workers in all, most in their teens, signed cards asking to be represented by the Teamsters.

Dominic Tocco, president of 1,400-member Teamsters Local 416 in Cleveland, said the Teamsters heard about the walkout and feared the teenagers would be intimidated by management.

"The issues these kids are interested in are minor. McDonald's could wave their hand and make it all right," he said.