

### Notable Briefs

# Sunbursts blot out key data

MOUNTAIN VIEW, Calif. (UPI) — The first major disappointment in the 6½-year journey of Pioneer 11 occurred when crucial data about possible life on Saturn's moon, Titan, was lost.

The Space Agency said huge bursts of radiation from the sun blacked out radio signals from the 565-pound spacecraft for two hours Monday.

During that crucial time period was Pioneer's only chance — for just 15 minutes while moving at 25,000 mph — to obtain ultraviolet measurements of Titan.

These measurements would have given the satellite's temperature, the key to the question of whether Titan's conditions could foster life.

Titan is the last place in the solar system besides Earth where scientists think life forms could develop.

Charles Hall, Pioneer Project manager, said he was deeply disappointed. But he said a small percentage of the data might be recovered by intensive reviews of recordings made at the tracking station at Madrid.

### Handle defects?

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Corning Glass Works is alerting consumers that up to 18.5 million coffeemakers manufactured in the last 20 years may have handle defects.

Corning agreed to alert consumers following negotiations with the Consumer Product Safety Commission. The action was not a recall of the product, according to a commission spokesman.

Product Safety Letter, a Washington-based weekly, said the action — the biggest by a single company in the six-year history of the commission — will be announced officially next week with the start of a \$2 million publicity drive by the company.

The action was prompted by consumer complaints of being scalded when coffeemaker handles separated from the percolators. The defect was blamed on epoxy glue failures.

### Harrah's sold

RENO, Nev. (UPI) — Holiday Inns Inc. has closed a \$300 million deal to purchase Harrah's, which operates two of the largest hotel-casinos in northern Nevada.

Roy Winegardner, chairman and chief executive officer of Holiday Inns, and Mead Dixon, Harrah's board chairman, said Monday the transaction will involve a combination of stock and cash.

Harrah's operates major hotel-casinos in both Reno and Stateline at Lake Tahoe and is known for the Harrah Auto Collection, the world's largest.

The deal, already approved by stockholders and the directors of both corporations, must still pass the scrutiny of probate courts that hold control of the Harrah estate and of the Nevada Gaming Control Board and Gaming Commission.

### UAW, GM talks

DETROIT (UPI) — Bargainers for General Motors Corp. and the United Auto Workers Union labored through the Labor Day weekend but made little progress on resolving vital non-economic issues.

"There has been no movement," UAW Vice President Irving Bluestone, the union's chief negotiator at GM, said Monday. "So far, nothing has been happening at the subcommittee level."

Anxious to reach agreements on dozens of technical issues before the approaching contract deadline forces serious money talks, both sides have concentrated their efforts recently in bargaining subcommittees.

Much of the same was scheduled for today.

### Panda mourned

TOKYO (UPI) — Lan Lan, the 10-year-old panda adored by millions of Japanese children and symbolizing renewed Chinese-Japanese ties, died today. An autopsy disclosed she was pregnant with a pair of twins.

Lan Lan's death was announced at a tear-filled news conference, and Japan's former Prime Minister, Kakuei Tanaka, sent condolences at the death of "the idol of Japanese children."

The unborn twins would have been the first pandas born in captivity outside China. Atsushi Komori, chief animal keeper at Tokyo's Ueno Zoo, said.

### Placed as punch

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Vice President Walter Mondale, weary but "pleased as punch" with the success of his 10-day trip to China and the Far East, had a luncheon today to report to his boss, President Jimmy Carter.

Mondale's weeklong visit to China resulted in new agreements for trade and development projects and a new consulate in Canton. In Hong Kong Sunday, he toured crowded refugee camps and defended the U.S. policy of picking up and assisting the Indochina "boat people."



UPI Unifax II photo

President Carter sits on a picnic bench and claps as he listens to the entertainment at the White House picnic honoring the labor movement. He had returned earlier Monday from five days vacation in Plains, Ga.

# 'Spirit of nation intact' — Carter

WASHINGTON (UPI) — President Carter, who began his vacation travels with a warning that the nation is having a "crisis of confidence," is back at the White House with an upbeat report: "The spirit of our country is still intact."

Carter, who apparently picked up a cold on his trip home to Plains, Ga., looked tired when he hosted a picnic for 1,200 labor leaders and their families Monday night on the gaily decorated South Lawn.

But he was in good spirits as he and his wife Rosalynn mingled with his guests and later spoke from an outdoor stage.

"We have had a good vacation," he said. "We have been down the Mississippi River. We had a few days at Camp David. We went down to Atlanta, to Tampa, to Plains. And everywhere I went my confidence in this nation was strengthened."

"I began to see more and more clearly that my basic belief in the strength of our country is well justified — not only our military and economic strength and political strength, but our ethical and moral strength. The spirit of our country is still intact."

Carter praised the labor movement for being in the forefront of the civil rights struggle and social progress, and said:

"We have got a great country, and part of that greatness has been that every time we have been tested in the past we have been drawn closer together. And I can say the working people of our country, the labor movement, the trade unions, have always been in the forefront when there was a dynamic struggle to make our nation

greater in time of peace, especially in time of war."

He thanked the labor organizations for endorsing the arms limitation treaty — SALT II — and prompted cheering applause when he said, "We also need a national health insurance program."

In giving his rundown on the record of his presidency, Carter said "I thank God that in the last two and a half years we have not had a single American lose his or her life in combat anywhere in the world. And I would like to go out of office after I have served as president with that record still intact. We want peace."

Carter told the gathering that AFL-CIO President George Meany had telephoned him to say that he would be unable to attend because he had "a slight virus attack."

He called Meany a "fine man," and requested a round of applause for the ailing labor leader.

Speaking of Meany, Carter said "he was kind of reading me your report card on the telephone." Then as the laughter died down, he added with a broad grin his frequent critic had said "if I wouldn't tell what was on it, he wouldn't tell either."

The president also referred to his much publicized encounter with a rabbit while canoeing in Georgia last April. "Rosalynn and I just came back from Georgia," he said. "We escaped from all the killer rabbits down there."

Carter has his work cut out for him over the next several weeks. On Wednesday, he will huddle with Democratic congressional leaders to discuss a legislative timetable for the remainder of the session, particularly to get action on his energy program.

# Dayan, PLO meet

TEL AVIV, Israel (UPI) — Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan met Monday with an official of the PLO living in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, the state-run radio said.

The two-hour session, held in the Hebron headquarters of the military government, was the first ever between an Israeli foreign minister and an official of the Palestine Liberation Organization, Israeli Radio said.

The meeting was with Dr. Ahmad Hanne Natshe, a member of the Palestine National Council, the PLO's Parliament-in-exile. The radio said Natshe is the only Arab in the occupied territories to belong to it.

Natshe, a medical doctor, was ap-

pointed to the council when he was banished from the West Bank four years ago by the military government during a mayoral campaign in Hebron, the radio said.

He also is a reported leader of the West Bank Communist Party, which has been banned by Israeli authorities there.

Dayan went through with the meeting despite criticism of a meeting he held last week with a Palestinian leader in the occupied Gaza Strip.

Israel refuses to talk with the PLO and Washington has agreed not to talk with the group until it recognizes Israel's right to exist.

# Iran AP Bureau shut

TEHRAN, Iran (UPI) — The government today shut down the Associated Press bureau and ordered its correspondents out of the country, the official Pars news agency reported.

Foreign press chief Ali Behzadnia told Pars the AP bureau was being closed because of "false reports and other reasons given earlier after the expulsion of other correspondents."

Behzadnia said the bureau would remain closed until the introduction and acceptance of any new AP correspondent by the government.

The press chief said AP's outgoing bureau chief Thomas Kent and correspondent Philip Dopoulos "have been expelled."

The agency's new bureau manager, Nicolas Tatro and his correspondent wife Earleen also were no longer

authorized to act as reporters, Behzadnia said.

He did not say if the couple was also being ordered to leave Iran.

Behzadnia's statement, quoted by Pars, said the agency's two Iranian reporters, Ali Reza Jahanshahi and Fereshteh Emamy, "will not cooperate with this bureau."

As for the Tattros, he said they were "working unofficially with the agency." The AP bureau in Tehran said, however, the couple had been issued accreditation cards by Behzadnia before today's announcement.

The press chief accused the AP correspondents of "biased and distorted reporting which provoked world public opinion."

Eight Western correspondents had been expelled before today's action, including reporters for The Los Angeles Times and The New York Times.

# One mechanic made \$48,000 RTD drivers threaten to break off negotiations

LOS ANGELES (UPI) — The strike against the nation's largest bus system was hung up today by a dispute over clerks' wages and a threat by the bus drivers union to break off negotiations.

The strike against the Rapid Transit District went into its 10th day today with no prospect of a settlement in sight.

An RTD spokesman made public pay records of striking employees, noting that with overtime pay 36 mechanics made more than \$30,000 last year and one made more than \$48,000, only slightly less than the salary of Gov. Edmund G. Brown Jr.

Earl Clark, chairman of the United Transportation Union, said Monday night that unless negotiators for the district "up the offer," more talks will be futile.

He complained that since the district negotiators made an offer Saturday — which brought optimistic statements from both sides that it

# BART tieup strands SF commuters

SAN FRANCISCO (UPI) — Commuters entering the city from the East Bay prepared for a monumental traffic tie-up today when they returned to work after the Labor Day weekend.

The Bay Area Rapid Transit system was shut down, thus putting an extra 80,000 commuters, who would normally take the BART trains, on to the already-packed highways.

"All we can advise is to carpool it as much as possible," a California Highway Patrol spokesman said Monday.

Other forms of transportation, including extra AC Transit buses, were available, but the CHP expected a "tremendous" increase in the number of cars crossing the Bay Bridge into San Francisco.

BART workers forestalled an expected return to work on Labor Day, with only a handful showing up at the train stations, closed since Friday in a long-simmering labor dispute.

BART officials said small groups of workers showed up "sporadically" for their shifts through the day but were immediately turned back by BART police, who handed out letters stating the 75-mile computerized system was closed due to a strike.

The unions, insisting there was no strike and that BART "illegally locked out" the workers, had urged members to report to their jobs.

The difference between strike and lockout is a major one for the 1,650 union members. Strikers are not eligible for unemployment benefits while workers in a lock-out situation are.

A showdown was expected Wednesday, the day union leaders have chosen for the workers to seek unemployment benefits en masse.

BART management has said it will block the move.

No negotiations were scheduled, and the rapid transit system daily serving 80,000 commuters in three counties was expected to remain inoperative at least through Friday.

A BART spokesman said supervisors Monday began making a "careful survey of all maintenance requirements and an examination of the whole system to determine what is needed to get a minimum of trains back in operation."

BART shut down the system Friday, saying it was necessary because train operators failed to report for work, calling in "sick," and asserting that maintenance workers had sabotaged equipment.

Union leader Paul Varacalli said Sunday the unions had officially notified BART that they reject the "notion" the unions are on strike.

could be a breakthrough — the union made two counter-proposals, while the district stood pat.

Clark said he had advised state mediator Don McCarthy union negotiators will meet with state mediators this afternoon.

"If the district is not prepared to move substantially on its last offer, we are not going to just sit around for no purpose," said Clark, whose union represents the 5,000 bus drivers.

"We have amended our position twice since their last offer," a spokesman said. "Apparently that's not good enough for them."

"Negotiating is supposed to be give and take and now we want to see some movement from them before going on."

RTD General Manager Jack Gilstrap said differences with the union representing the 485 clerks, the smallest of the three striking unions, continued to be "the major stumbling block" to ending the strike.

Gilstrap — pointing to a conclusion by a state study group that the RTD pays far higher salaries for clerical work than the state, county or city governments — said the district wants to cut the pay of clerk-typists hired in the future.

Those now on the payroll would not receive a pay cut, he said, but the

Brotherhood of Railway and Airline Clerks would not consider such a two-level pay structure.

"We would appear to be at a stalemate," said Charles Coleman, international vice president of the clerks' union.

With the turnover rate in clerical employees, more than 37 percent of them would be on the lower pay scale by the time a three-year contract expired, Coleman said, creating a problem for union negotiators the next time around.

An RTD spokesman meanwhile pointed out that, with overtime, the best paid of the bus mechanics — who now average more than \$24,000 a year — earned \$48,487 last year, or slightly less than the salary of the governor.

The best paid bus driver collected \$32,215 and the best paid clerk \$31,004, he said, putting them in the same salary league with a city council member.

The strike, which began Aug. 26, has idled 2,600 buses that carry about 1.2 million fares on an average weekday in four Southern California counties.

The RTD is the largest all-bus transit operation in the nation, with a total of 85 million fares last year, and the third-largest urban transit agency in the country.

# Walkouts plague opening of school

By United Press International

School bells in dozens of communities were silenced today by money — or rather, the lack of it — with teachers either already walking picket lines or threatening to strike for higher pay.

An unbroken impasse in Metairie, La., where the school board has not officially met since two-thirds of the parish's 3,100 teachers walked out a week ago demanding a 20 percent pay increase, was typical.

"The teachers are strong," said union President Jan Skelton. "They are together. They will remain on strike until it (the contract) is resolved."

"We have nothing left to offer," said School Board President Andy Valence, after calling an "unofficial" board meeting to assess the strike. "That's the whole tragedy of the situation. They think we are cheating them or something, but we're not. We can't offer them any more."

Labor troubles extended the

summer vacation in seven other states — Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan and Vermont, and last-minute bargaining sessions were under way in several others.

In Springfield, Ill., teachers demanding a 10 percent pay raise — against a board offer of 5 percent — prepared to set up picket lines today, and their colleagues in two Chicago suburbs scheduled a meeting in a last-minute effort to avoid a walkout.

In Indianapolis, some 3,800 teachers — seeking an 11.5 percent pay hike — prepared for a possible strike today against the state's largest school system with about 80,000 students.

In Rutland, Vt., parents planned a march in support of 230 striking teachers now in their third day on the picket line, and a strike loomed in Eugene, Ore., where the opening of classes was delayed for at least one day — until Wednesday — pending last-minute negotiations.

# Nixon hosts parties

SAN CLEMENTE (UPI) — In what was billed as his farewell to California before moving to New York, former President Richard Nixon threw two parties during the Labor Day weekend, complete with a jibe by John Mitchell at President Carter's "killer rabbit."

Nixon hosted a party for 500 persons Monday, including prominent Republicans, his San Clemente neighbors and the California Angels baseball team. Nixon is an Angels fan and attended many of their games in the six years since he resigned the presidency and took up residence on his estate on the Pacific.

Sunday's party was described as a gathering of about 200 of Nixon's "inner circle" to celebrate the 66th birthday this month of Mitchell, attorney general under Nixon.

Mitchell, who served a prison sentence for Watergate offenses, joked to the group that while the Nixon administration had its problems, "We

never had a killer rabbit attack the President," the Los Angeles Times reported.

The Times quoted unidentified guests.

Mitchell was referring to reports President Carter used a canoe paddle to "discourage" a rabbit which swam toward his rowboat on a Georgia pond.

Nixon introduced Mitchell as "a man of great loyalty" and led the guests in singing "Happy Birthday," the Times reported.

Those present included Nixon's daughter Julie and her husband David Eisenhower, and former White House staffers Dwight Chapin, Ron Ziegler, Herb Klein, Robert Mardian and secretary Rosemary Woods.

Also present were Chicago industrialist W. Clement Stone, a long time financial backer of Nixon, and former Rep. Jimmy Roosevelt.

Nixon has sold his estate and he and his wife Pat plan to move to the New York by the end of the year.



UPI Unifax II photo

Diane Lewis, of San Diego, uses a photograph as a guide to put the finishing touches on part of a sand replica of Heidelberg Castle at San Elijo State Beach

Monday. Local architect Norman Kraus organized the annual Labor Day "Sandcastle Invitational" north of San Diego.