

Oil strike possible; union leader to say

by Peter M. Kelly
United Press International

DENVER — Representatives of the 60,000-member Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers union sought Thursday to win a new contract agreement and avert selective strikes Friday against some of the nation's major oil companies.

Union President A.F. Grospron said he would make the strike decision, but that if the strike were called it would not involve a nationwide walkout.

"Nobody wants a strike," Grospron said. Grospron, apparently hoping for a sign by local union negotiators throughout the country that producers would accept OCAW's latest offer, said a strike would have no immediate effect on the nation's gasoline supplies.

Grospron said he had information that the country's storage tanks are brimful. He also said most of the nation's refineries are highly automated and could be run for a time by skeleton staffs of management personnel.

Independent and major producers whose 400 local contracts with OCAW expired at midnight Tuesday, failed to respond Wednesday to a union compromise lowering requested hourly pay hikes in a new three-year contract from \$1.50 to \$1.20.

The union struck for higher wages two years ago.

Refinery managers, some hit by wildcat walkouts when their contracts expired, said

they expected no immediate problems if a strike were called.

"We have staff people standing by ready to take over facilities," said a spokesman for a Shell Oil refinery and chemical plant in Deer Park, Tex. "We don't anticipate any problems."

Grospron said wildcat strikes of 6,600 workers at Gulf and Texaco refineries at Port Arthur, Tex., and 900 workers at Standard Oil's plant in El Segundo, Calif., were the result of local grievances and he would not interfere by urging the men return to the job.

Richardson named British ambassador

by Gene Carlson
United Press International

WASHINGTON — President Ford Thursday named as ambassador to Great Britain Elliot L. Richardson, who resigned as attorney general rather than carry out Richard M. Nixon's Watergate orders.

"I warmly welcome Elliot Richardson back into the service of our country and am

confident that he will represent America with the highest distinction," Ford said in a White House statement.

Richardson, who held two other Cabinet posts in the Nixon administration, stepped down as head of the Justice Department in October, 1973, rather than obey Nixon's order to fire Watergate Special Prosecutor Archibald Cox. The incident became known as the "Saturday Night Massacre."

White House announcements of diplomatic appointments usually are cut and dried, but Ford took occasion to highly praise Richardson, who also served as secretary of defense and of health, education and welfare, as well as undersecretary of state.

Richardson's career "has been one of extraordinary achievement. I have the highest regard for him, for his intelligence and for his total commitment to public service," the President said.

Richardson's appointment had been expected and is subject to Senate approval. If confirmed, he will succeed Walter Annenberg, a Philadelphia and Nixon confidant.

The post of U.S. ambassador to the Court of St. James is one of the most prestigious in the Foreign Service, but because of outside expenses it often has gone to wealthy party contributors rather than to first-line career diplomats.

That was the case with Annenberg, who published a Philadelphia newspaper, a racing form and TV Guide and whose enormous Palm Springs, California estate and private golf course have served as a Nixon retreat.

Richardson's wealth does not come close to that of his predecessor.

House panel chairman predicts multi-billion-dollar tax cut soon

by Gene Bernhardt
United Press International

WASHINGTON — Rep. Al Ullman, to be the next chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, predicted Thursday his panel will approve by March 1 a multi-billion-dollar tax cut for low and middle income groups.

Ullman would not give his own preference for the size of the cut, saying only that it would fall between \$5 billion and \$30 billion,

depending on how much of the lost revenue can be made up through other tax increases.

"If we act quickly the cut would not have to be as large as it would be if we delayed. What is needed on an emergency basis is to get more money to people who will spend it, put it back into the economy and build it up," said Ullman.

The Oregon Democrat told reporters that after the new Congress convenes Tuesday, "I will recommend that our committee go into immediate consideration of an emergency tax bill with relief for low and middle income groups."

Firm figures to define low and middle income groups depend on a vast array of factors but the committee has generally

considered low income, the poverty level, as \$5,450 for a four-member family, and \$15,000 to \$25,000 for middle income.

He said the cut would include relief for corporations through an enlargement of the investment tax credit. That credit now allows a business to deduct from taxes owed 7 per cent of its investment in certain equipment.

Additionally, said Ullman, the measure would include an end to the oil depletion allowance which now provides oil producers with a large deduction in their taxes. He said if controversy over ending the depletion allowance threatens to stall the emergency bill, the provision would be dropped and dealt with later in a separate measure.

"The important thing right now is to act quickly to get revenue into the economy," said Ullman.

Ullman met Thursday with freshman Democratic members of the House, and said they expressed overwhelming support for a tax cut. There are 75 new Democrats who will assume office Tuesday and four of them have been assigned to Ullman's committee.

A task force of House Democrats, set up by Speaker Carl Albert before the old Congress adjourned last month, has tentatively agreed to recommend a tax cut of about \$12 billion for low and middle income citizens and to abolish the oil depletion allowance and levy a windfall profits tax on oil producers to help pay for the cut.

Boston school suffers violence

by James R. Dorsey
United Press International

BOSTON — Fifteen students were arrested Thursday at Hyde Park High School after a series of racial scuffles closed the school and ended an uneasy truce between black and white students that had existed since before Christmas.

Police said 14 black students and a white student were arrested and charged with disorderly conduct.

Officials said the students fought among themselves and with police in the hallways and some fights were reported in classrooms.

When some students tried to wrestle handguns out of the holsters of police the officers inside the school were told to carry their weapons in their pockets.

The violence caused officials to order the school closed for the day. Buses returned to Hyde Park to take the children home.

A newsmen from radio station WEEI was struck by a bottle thrown from a third floor window but was not seriously injured.

Hyde Park High, which had been closed sporadically because of violence, had reopened on schedule Jan. 2 after the Christmas vacation.

Later in the day after a lengthy meeting among police and school department officials and Hyde Park Headmaster John Best, the school board ordered the school reopened Friday. A school department spokesman said added precautions would be taken. He would not elaborate.



Police rush two students they arrested out of Hyde Park High School in Boston after fighting broke out in the halls. Police said 14 black students and one white one were arrested and charged with disorderly conduct. Officials closed the school for the rest of Thursday, but the school board ordered it reopened on Friday.

Senate studies closest election in its history

by George Gudauskas
United Press International

WASHINGTON — Republican Louis C. Wyman, two-vote winner in the closest Senate race in history, said Thursday he considers himself entitled to the seat from New Hampshire but would welcome a runoff with Democrat John A. Durkin.

Wyman presented his side of the dispute to the Senate's subcommittee on elections, which earlier heard Durkin urge that both men stand aside and let the full Senate decide which of them should be seated in the new Congress which convenes Tuesday.

In Concord, meantime, Republicans in the state Senate pushed legislation calling for a runoff vote in February to settle the race which Wyman won, lost, then won again on a recount of the Nov. 5 ballots.

The New Hampshire Republicans sought to change a law under which the governor is empowered to fill a vacancy — thus providing for a new election should the Senate declare neither man entitled to the seat.

On the basis of the new count, the state certified Wyman for the seat. But Wyman, apparently fearing the predominantly Democratic Senate might overturn the result and seat Durkin, has pressed for a new election.

Durkin, asking that the Senate decide the issue, told the elections subcommittee as the

hearing opened Thursday: "I publicly offer to stand aside without prejudice on Jan. 14 and challenge my opponent to stand aside until the Senate reaches a decision."

Durkin, a former state insurance commissioner, said that Senate examination of as few as 50 of 400 ballots he is disputing could decide the issue in his favor.

Wyman said he felt there should be a new election, and added, "I sincerely believe my certificate of election entitles me to be seated . . . until the runoff is completed."

Wyman, a former five-term House member from New Hampshire, opposed Durkin's proposal that the subcommittee examine protested ballots involved in the recount, saying the only issue is whether due process in the sovereign state of New Hampshire will be overridden.

The first count of New Hampshire ballots showed Wyman the winner by 355 votes. A recount of the nearly 222,000 ballots gave Durkin a 10-point edge. But the state Ballot Law Commission, dominated by Republicans, re-examined the ballots and declared Wyman the winner by two votes.

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Crossword Puzzler

ACROSS

- Failure (slang)
- Call
- Rumor
- Pertaining to the mind
- Pronoun
- Spotted animal
- Conjunction
- Greek letter
- Heroic events
- The urial
- In addition
- Compass point
- Stalk
- Chemical compound
- Footwear (pl.)
- Southwestern Indian
- Anger
- Repeat
- Jumps
- Roman road
- Tiny
- Winter vehicle
- Turf
- Kind of foot race
- French for "summer"
- Preposition
- Release
- Symbol for tantalum
- Continued story
- Click beetle
- Suppose
- Old musical instrument

DOWN

- Insect
- Above

Answer to Yesterday's Puzzle

3 The sun
4 Woody plant
5 Possessive pronoun
6 Conjunction
7 Pronoun
8 Whips
9 American ostrich
10 Heavy drinker
11 Heavy clubs
12 Clayey earth
15 Metal fastener
18 Affected
20 Spire
22 Aquatic mammal
24 Rail birds
26 Evening (poet.)
28 Hasten
31 Made amends
32 Live

33 Depart
34 Sofa
35 Egyptian goddess
37 Man's name
39 Loved one
41 Paper measure
42 Shout
45 Expire
46 Beam
49 Note of scale
51 Initials of 26th President

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