

**Iowa News Roundup**

**Winnebago layoff**

FOREST CITY (UPI) — Winnebago Industries said today that because of the tightening fuel supplies it will reduce its production of recreational vehicles by 45 units a week and will lay off 270 employees.

John K. Hanson, president and board chairman, said effective April 30 the production of motor homes will be reduced from about 320 units a week to 275 per week. The layoffs, which will reduce the plant's work force to about 3,000, are effective immediately, he said.

The affected employees work primarily in the production support areas.

Hanson said the reduced production "is made necessary by the failure of the spring market for motor homes to show any significant improvements in April."

He said the market has been affected by the shortages of gasoline throughout the country.

Winnebago is the largest employer in north-central Iowa.

**Closing arguments**

CHARLES CITY (AP) — Closing arguments were expected today in the Floyd County District Court murder trial of Shealy Wiles of Nashua.

Judge B.C. Sullivan excused the jury just before noon Thursday after the defense rested its case.

The judge said he planned to finish working on instructions for the 11-woman, one-man jury so lawyers could make their final arguments this morning.

Four witnesses testified the final day, including Wiles, 45. Speaking softly and with a Southern accent, the South Carolina native told the jury his version of what happened on Dec. 30, 1978, when Alice Simonsmeier, 53, died.

Contrary to the testimony of Robert Hull Wednesday, Wiles said he didn't hit Mrs. Simonsmeier during a struggle while the three were driving from Nashua to Minnesota that evening.

**Deaths connected?**

WATERLOO (UPI) — Officials investigating the death of a 35-year-old teacher last weekend are not ruling out the possibility of a connection between the death and three other unsolved killings in Iowa.

Patricia Kniss' nude body was found in a grassy area near a Waterloo shopping center shortly before midnight Sunday. Authorities said her body had been run over by a car. Mrs. Kniss had been reported missing by her husband, who returned home from work early Saturday and found signs of a struggle at the couple's home.

Michael Moses, 25, Waterloo, is being held on charges of first-degree kidnapping in the disappearance of Mrs. Kniss.

The two-day search for the woman involved a National Guard helicopter and Waterloo police and firefighters using searchlights.

Waterloo police and Henry County sheriff's deputies have not ruled out the possibility of a connection between the Kniss death and the murder of another Waterloo woman, Debra Lane, 24. Ms. Lane's body was discovered at her home March 30.

Iowa Bureau of Criminal Investigation agent John Tinker said investigators were examining possible connections between the two Waterloo deaths and the unsolved deaths of two Waverly women, Julia Benning and Lisa Peak. Ms. Benning was killed in 1975 and Ms. Peak was killed in 1976.

Tinker said officials believe there might be a connection between the apparent murders because three of the four bodies were found by authorities in grassy, secluded areas.

**Traffic fatality**

MOUNT PLEASANT (AP) — Timothy Paul Meagher, 16, New London, was killed in a train-truck accident in Mount Pleasant Thursday night.

Authorities said the pickup driven by Meagher struck the second engine of a west-bound Burlington Northern freight just before 10 p.m.

Meagher was pronounced dead at the scene.

**Jobless rate dips**

DES MOINES (AP) — Job Service of Iowa said Friday the state's unemployment rate continued its downward trend in March, dropping half of 1 percent to 4.4 percent.

Steve Rosenow, labor economist for Job Service, said the previous month's rate was 4.9 percent. He also said the rate for March of 1978 was 4.8 percent.

"Although our '79 winter was especially severe, we experienced a quick change to warmer weather in March and many industries got an earlier start on spring production," Rosenow said.

"Last year's March was colder and the shift to warm weather was gradual," he added.

Rosenow also predicted that the downward trend would continue through April, possibly to less than 4 percent. He said May should bring another slight decline, followed by an increase in June as students and new graduates enter the labor force.

**Terrorism charges**

DES MOINES (UPI) — The Polk County attorney's office filed terrorism charges Thursday against the man accused of trying to kill Gov. Robert D. Ray.

The information was filed in Polk County District Court against Michael Elston, 25, of Des Moines in addition to previous charges of attempted murder.

Elston, who allegedly threatened to kill Ray last Friday, is in custody under \$25,000 bond at Broadlawn Hospital undergoing psychiatric examination.

**Won't appeal firing**

DES MOINES (AP) — A park officer who was fired after he was accused of using state property for private purposes said he will not appeal his firing.

Park Ranger Henry Savage was fired last Friday, according to William Brabham, acting director of the Iowa Conservation Commission.

Savage, a state employee for 17 years, said he had been accused of using his state car for private purposes. He declined comment on the charge.

**Shippers oppose Milwaukee's plan**

AMES (UPI) — Shippers overwhelmingly oppose a plan to end service to northern Iowa by the bankrupt Milwaukee Road, saying rail connections are vital to the economic health of the area.

In a resolution Thursday, the 300 shippers demanded continued service on the Milwaukee tracks, even if it means finding another railroad to operate the route. Many recounted frustrating experiences and only a fifth indicated they wanted to keep the Milwaukee.

The results of the Ames meeting, called by the Department of Transportation, will be passed to the IDOT Commission, which meets Tuesday. Commissioners will help map the state's response to the proposal.

Ian MacGillivray



On Monday, the Milwaukee asked a federal judge in Chicago for permission to "embargo" — discontinue — service beginning May 8 to two-thirds of its trackage in Iowa. Com-

ments on the plan are due May 3 and a hearing is set for May 4.

"I can't tell you if we will be far enough along to make a decision or whether there will be a discussion and some direction to the staff," IDOT research and planning director Ian MacGillivray said, explaining the staff was investigating several areas that might influence arguments in court.

"The timetable is not adequate... there is not enough time to track down technical information, like traffic on a line," he said. "Only the railroad is privy to that, and it is proposing to embargo main lines."

Iowa already has filed an objection to the short court-mandated timetable.

In voting on their resolution, ship-

pers called for continued service with Milwaukee equipment, but termed it a precaution.

"We ought to have a place to land before we jump," said Al Brennecke, the Marshalltown lawyer who drafted the resolution. "Before we tell them (the Milwaukee) to leave, we ought to be sure we'll get someone."

The Interstate Commerce Commission likely will order other railroads to pick up service on the Milwaukee's routes, MacGillivray said, but the service, by law, cannot last more than a few months.

Also, the state is exploring the possibility of using short lines, rail carriers who operate in only one state, to pick up some of the traffic.

**Senate revises, passes jobless pay bill**

DES MOINES (AP) — A bill to toughen Iowa's unemployment compensation law underwent surgery in the Senate Thursday in an effort to solve an acrid dispute it has triggered among Republicans.

The Senate adopted what were billed as "compromise" amendments to the version approved by the House, even though House Majority Leader Roger Halvorson, R-Monona, has vowed no amendments will be accepted by that body.

"They're mad," said Lt. Gov. Terry Branstad of the reaction by Halvorson and other House leaders.

But he said the latest round of amendments to the bill, which shortens from 39 to 26 weeks and reduces

the weekly benefits most jobless Iowans would receive, doesn't change the House version very much, and he thinks the House will accept it when tempers cool.

They'd better, if the bill is to pass this year, said Sen. Richard Drake, R-Muscatine. "If it goes to a conference committee, I think it's dead," he said.

Sen. Clloyd Robinson, D-Cedar Rapids, a labor leader who helped work out the compromise, agreed with Drake.

"I've compromised as much as I'm going to. It's down to the bottom line with me," Robinson said.

"House members have told me they'll go to a conference committee

with our proposal. That only means they want to compromise further."

The bill, a top Republican priority, is designed to meet complaints from many small employers about alleged abuses of the present law.

Among other things, it would make it harder for unemployed Iowans to requalify for jobless pay if they quit their job or are fired for misconduct, and require greater proof that they are actively seeking work to be eligible for benefits.

The bill originally proposed in the Senate contained harsh provisions that were considerably softened before the Senate passed it on March 14.

During four hard days of debate,

the House restored to the bill most of the original provisions. Rep. Lawrence Pope, R-Des Moines, House floor manager of the bill, said it was closer to what Gov. Ray recommended.

But House leaders' feelings were ruffled because the governor said Wednesday he liked the Senate version better.

And they were further miffed because Branstad, who had assured them the Senate would accept the House version, found the votes weren't there.

ON THIS DATE in 1937, the first Social Security payment was made.

**When**  
M-F 9-8  
Sat. 9-6  
Sun. 10-5

# Stiles ACE

## HARDWARE

**Where**  
Wilson Ave. and  
Bowing St. SW  
365-7533  
Ad Effective thru 5/6

**Bedding Plants**  
**59¢** Tray

**Geraniums**  
**69¢** each

**40 lb. Bag Cow Manure**  
**\$1.47**

**AMES Reg. 10.80 Lawn Groom Rake ACE 70081**  
**\$7.88**

**2 Gallon Plastic Sprinkling Can**  
Removable Head  
**\$1.99**

**5 lb. Bag Quickgrow Rye Grass Seed**  
Reg. 2.99  
**\$1.99**

**25% OFF**  
on ACE Shady Deluxe, or Custom Grass Seed

**AMES Model 23-809 Hose Reel Cart**  
Holds 150' 3/4" hose  
29.70 Value  
**\$16.88** in Carton

**Card of 10 Garden Hose Washers ACE 70332**  
**9¢** Limit 2

**Plastic Coated Wire Clothesline Rope ACE 51625 Reg. 2.69**  
**\$1.99** Per 50 Ft.

**ACE 50873 Reg. 69¢ Broom & Tool Holder**  
**49¢** Pair

**80 lb. Bag Concrete Mix Reg. 2.69**  
**\$2.19**

**Scott's Grow**  
For Transplants Shrubs and Trees Acid Loving Plants Flowers  
2 1/2 lb. Boxes Reg. \$1.99  
**\$1.47** Each

**LAWN-BOY 21"**  
Self-Propelled Supreme Rear Bagger Mower Now at Stiles Ace

**\$304.95 Value** Now **\$259.95** ONLY

**SAVE 10% OFF** our low everyday prices on all ACE, Toro, and other Lawn Boy Mowers in stock this week at Stiles ACE Hardware

# Stiles Ace - your Spring place.

**THE TIME**  
October 25, 1971

**CHINA ADMITTED TO THE UN!**

Albanian Resolution Passed 76-35

A long 8 years have passed since you read this headline. It's taken all that time for **BEAM'S CHOICE** to come of age.

A CHARRED WHITE OAK BARREL. THAT'S OUR TIME MACHINE. NOW TAKE YOUR TIME AND ENJOY IT WISELY.



Kentucky Straight Bourbon Whiskey, 80 Proof. Distilled and Bottled by The James B. Beam Distilling Co., Clermont, Beam, Ky.

