

San Antonio City Manager Won't Yield to Demands

SAN ANTONIO, Tex. (AP) — Tom Huebner, the beefy, blunt, rookie city manager of the nation's 10th largest city, says he will not tolerate "capricious" strikes by city employees.

And if you don't believe him, just ask more than 140 garbage men who became ex-garbagemen when they were promptly fired after walking off their jobs Saturday and Monday in a wage dispute.

More than half of this city's 313 garbage men went on strike Saturday. Huebner, backed by eight of 11 budget-conscious city council members and a state law prohibiting such walkouts, fired 106 of them within hours.

Approximately 35 appeared for work Monday, but refused to go out, saying they feared for their safety. City officials said they were also dismissed. More than 20 others face disciplinary action.

"I mean business. I will not be intimidated," said Huebner, 42. "These capricious job actions have gone too far, and any patience with this kind of action only encourages more of it."

"I hope the fired men go out and find themselves employment, soon, but they are through as city employees. Let there be no mistake about that," he added. "I can't think

of a reason that would justify their re-hirement."

The striking garbage men, members of the San Antonio Refuse Collectors Association, had claimed support from airport maintenance men, some street department workers, animal control officers and landfill workers. Asked Sunday how such walkouts were to be handled, Huebner replied, "I intend to be consistent in my actions."

There was no indication Monday of other walkouts.

Huebner became San Antonio's city manager in January 1977 after an eight-year stint as assistant city manager in

Sacramento, Calif., and two years as Oakland's budget and research officer. It is his first city manager's job.

He inherited a relatively poor, politically-volatile city of 800,000, with a money-conscious city council, sharp divisions between the north and south sides and a vocal Mexican-American community equal in size to that of the Anglos.

"I guess this would be viewed as one of the more difficult city manager jobs in the country," Huebner of his \$52,000 per year position. "At least that's the prevailing view within the profession. I knew I was going into a very difficult situation,

but I had no reservations.

"Everyone takes their shots, but I accept that as part of the job," he added.

Huebner, in a soft voice that belies his stocky frame, was quoted when he assumed the job as saying, "A manager who follows the way of the wind is no manager at all."

The garbage problem has its roots in a two-day May walkout by trash collectors. The garbage men returned to work after city officials promised to ease working conditions and give them priority on the new city budget. But garbage men

were unhappy with the city council's 6 percent wage hike.

Dog catchers staged a brief walkout and more than 80 city lifeguards closed the pools July 4 in a holiday sick-in. Two

lifeguards were fired and six suspended, as Huebner said the city had exhausted its patience.

"We tolerated the two-day walkout in May. You see what happened. The animal control

officers followed and then the sickout by lifeguards," said Huebner. "Obviously people feel we can be intimidated. That's a pretty serious mistake."

Border Patrol Boss Named

AUSTIN, Tex. (AP) — Dennis R. Vickery of Laredo was named Tuesday as commander of the South Texas border task force combating drug smuggling.

Vickery, who was made an acting captain, will assume command Aug. 1 of a 33-agent DPS force along the Texas-Mexico border. He will be

headquartered in McAllen.

The border force also includes communications, laboratory and support personnel to help point all-out off the flow of narcotics and dangerous drugs into the state, the DPS said.

Vickery joined the DPS in 1961 and was a highway patrol trooper for nine years before

transferring to the narcotics service in 1970.

Skylab Responds To Radio

SPACE CENTER, Houston (AP) — Flight controllers reported Tuesday that Skylab accepted radio commands aimed at prolonging the orbiting life of the space laboratory.

"All is well aboard Skylab at this time," spokesman Bob Gordon said after 35 commands were transmitted through a Madrid tracking station to return the vehicle to a minimum drag attitude.

Gordon said the two maneuvers required considerably less fuel than had been anticipated.

"All commands were received by the vehicle as it passed over the Madrid tracking station," Gordon said.

At a later pass over the Goldstone, Calif., tracking station, controllers were to double check that Skylab's solar panels were facing the sun and that the minimum drag attitude with the vehicle's front end flying in the direction of the orbit was being maintained.

Electrical problems aboard the laboratory that was abandoned in space nearly five years ago caused a series of on-board malfunctions July 9 and flight controllers began developing strategy for today's maneuvers.

Space officials are hopeful the maneuvers will prevent further decay of Skylab's orbit until shuttle program astronauts late next year can use remote controlled rockets to boost the vehicle into a higher orbit or cause it to return to Earth with a safe splashdown in a remote ocean area.

Corn, Oats Edge Down In Trading

CHICAGO (AP) — Corn and oats futures edged slightly downward, and wheat and soybean prices were mixed in light trading today on the Chicago Board of Trade.

Continued favorable weather and fair to excellent crop reports for most commodities held the markets fairly steady despite reports of increased export demand for wheat and a decline in country wheat sales.

Farmers slowed their grain sales at country points at the pen, when prices continued their downward trend of Monday. Country sales were spurred over the weekend by the grain price rallies that followed gold prices upward, but prices fell again Monday in a rush of speculative selling.

Corn prices closed lower across the board, with elevator operators reported taking 2 cents protection on low corn. Government reports that Midwest corn crops are in good to excellent condition and that exports last week were somewhat lower than expected were bearish factors in the market.

Wheat prices were mixed, with reports of Asian wheat sales to European buy apparently having little effect on the market.

Soybeans were mixed and anticipated price declines failed to materialize, apparently because of some short-covering by locals. Again, government reports that soybean fields are in fair to good condition weighed on the market, and Illinois elevator operators were reported taking 3 cents protection early in the day.

At the close, soybeans were 5 1/2 cents lower to 2 1/2 cents higher, with August contracts quoted at \$6.23 a bushel; wheat was 1 cent lower to 2 1/2 cents higher, with September contracts at \$3.11 1/2; corn 1/2 to 1 1/2 cents lower, September \$2.27 1/2; oats were unchanged to 1 cent lower September \$1.21.

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