# Cleveland Funds Go to Pay Debt

By Steven P. Rosenfeld
Associated Press Writer

CLEVELAND — A county auditor said Wednesday that property tax revenues and other funds due financially insolvent Cleveland are being seized to pay off its $5.3 million debt to a pension fund.

Cuyahoga County Auditor Vincent C. Campanella said he has been ordered by Ohio Attorney General William J. Brown to ensure the State Police and Firemen's Disability Pension fund receives the payments that Cleveland failed to make last month.

**Lien Threatened**

Meanwhile, a second pension fund, the State Public Employees Retirement System, said that unless it receives $2.1 million from Cleveland by Feb. 8, it also would place a lien on tax monies owed to the city.

Mayor Dennis J. Kucinich cited the pension fund demands Tuesday in ordering layoffs of 400 of the city's 10,000 public employees, including 275 of Cleveland's 1,875 police. Police unions have threatened court action.

Cleveland plunged into default on Dec. 15 when it could not repay six local banks $14 million to cover short-term notes that came due. Only because the banks have not moved to collect their notes has the city been spared much more extensive layoffs — up to 20 percent of the work force.

**Withholding Aid**

Campanella said that instead of distributing $800,000 in state aid to Cleveland on Dec. 21, he sent it to the pension fund. He said he will continue to withhold that aid, as well as real estate tax receipts and receipts from liquor permits until the debt is erased.

Cleveland Finance Director Joseph G. Tegreene used available city money last week to pay off a federal court judgment against the city for electricity purchased for its Municipal Light Plant from a private electric utility and to meet city payrolls.

"It was simply a question of payroll or pension," Tegreene said. "Do I meet the payroll on Dec. 27 or pay the pension on Friday Dec. 29? I decided to meet the payroll."

Kucinich, meanwhile, complained that "state authorities ... have treated Cleveland like an orphan."

He noted that at the height of New York City's financial crisis in 1975, public employee pension funds invested hundreds of millions of dollars in city notes.

Ponytail By Lee Holley



**"Daddy, do you remember when you said I don't know any interesting boys? . . . Well, Rodney can put six hard-boiled eggs in his mouth at once!"**

# Gunfire Ends Strike Lull, Steel-Hauling Rigs Hit

PITTSBURGH (AP) — A dozen tractor-trailer rigs were peppered by gunfire on the Pennsylvania Turnpike as violence erupted Wednesday after a holiday lull in the 2-month-old steel haulers strike.

State police said they suspect the shooting was sparked by the current strike by the Pittsburgh-based Fraternal Association of Steel Haulers, although FASH Chairman Bill Hill has said he does not condone such tactics.

**Shotgun Blasts**

Police said 12 trucks, some of them hauling steel, were struck with shotgun blasts and pellets as they traveled the turnpike in nearby Somerset County. One car also was hit.

Only one injury was reported and state police said the victim refused treatment.

Five trucks were hit in succession about 12:30 a.m., and less than a mile away another seven trucks and the car were attacked.

"It's a hell of a thing to handle," said a state police spokesman, who asked not to be identified. "What happens is they get hit, then go to the nearest state police barracks or back to a rest area and report it. By the time we get there to investigate there's no one around."

**Judge Ponders Action**

The day before, a truck parked at house in Somerset County and a rig traveling Old Route 28 in Allegheny County also were fired on without injury, state police said.

Meanwhile, a federal judge continues to ponder his decision in a $3 million lawsuit in which seven steel companies claim the strike violates a permanent injunction protecting steel shipments.

FASH members vow to fight any court order against them and not return to work until they win bargaining rights, more money and unified highway regulations.

# Suspect Free in Slaying

JACKSON, Mich. (AP) — A former railroad worker questioned in the murders of three Conrail employees was released Wednesday because prosecutors said they could not find any witnesses to the crime.

The three railroad employees were shot down about 100 feet from a crowded waiting room in the Jackson Conrail terminal on New Year's Eve. An Elkhart, Ind., man who had once worked for Conrail had been taken into custody.

Prosecutor Edward J. Grant said he ordered the release of Rudy Bladel, 46, for lack of evidence. He had been held for 48 hours for questioning in connection with the shootings.

Police said they have found no witnesses to the shootings and have not found the murder weapon, described as a 12-gauge shotgun loaded with slugs normally used to hunt deer.

Bladel was released last fall after serving a 4½-year term in an Indiana prison for shooting a Conrail employee in March 1971.

Elkhart Police Detective David Kech said shortly after Bladel was taken into custody in Michigan that Bladel had worked as a Penn Central railroad engineer in Elkhart in 1971, when "the railroad closed down their Niles, Mich., yard and transferred all their engineers to Elkhart.

# *Grasso Starts Second Term*

HARTFORD, Conn. (UPI) — Connecticut Gov. Ella Grasso — the first woman in U.S. history elected to consecutive terms as governor — was sworn in Wednesday before a crowd packed shoulder to shoulder in the hall of the State House.

In an elaborate ceremony under red, white and blue banners draped throughout the lower chamber, Chief Justice John P. Cotter administered the oath of office to Mrs. Grasso, the 59-year-old daughter of Italian immigrants who breezed to a landslide re-election victory in November.


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1 GALLON CRISCO OIL $4.99
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