

Air controllers look forward to cloudy future

By Jackie Klein
staff writer

"I pledge to you that my administration will work very closely with the Professional Air Traffic Controllers Organization to bring about a spirit of cooperation between the president and the air traffic controllers."

— Ronald Reagan, Oct. 20, 1980

Detroit area air controllers out of work since August say President Reagan broke his oath to support them when they were fired by the administration after a three-day walkout.

In a Southfield interview last week, two fired air controllers claimed that as federal employees they don't have rights as American citizens. They maintain they didn't strike in August, they just didn't show up for work.

Steve Conway, 32, vice president of the local PATCO, and Gary Wilder, 38, were in the Prudential Town Center offices of Southfield attorneys Steve Co-

per and Steve Cohen last Thursday.

Conway and Wilder are among 1100 air controllers represented by the attorneys in a legal battle to get their jobs back with full back pay and benefits. More than 12,000 air controllers nationwide were pink-slipped by the government.

RAY FEDERSPIEL, 38, of Southfield wasn't in the lawyers' office Thursday. He's among the few fired air controllers in the area who's employed. Federspiel is working as a tower operator scheduling maintenance work at Seymour Cadillac Inc. in Detroit.

Conway has been an air controller for 12 years. His latest stint was at Detroit Metropolitan Airport. Married with three children, Conway said he can't find another job.

"It's tough out there in this economy and I'm not really qualified for any other position," he said. Air controllers, he said, stayed away from their jobs to try to improve conditions and for survival.

"About 89 percent of air controllers don't make it to retirement because of the stress. And Reagan said in October 1980 he knew about the 'deplorable' state of the air traffic control system and if elected he would do everything possible to make it better."

Wilder, a Livonia resident, was an air controller in the army and with the Federal Aviation Association for 13 years. He said he has no other work experience which would pay as much as he was earning.

"THE PUBLIC thinks the air controllers' firing is a temporary layoff. And that makes it tougher to get a full-time position. I have a wife and a 3-year-old child. My little boy just had eye surgery and I had to convert my hospital insurance to a private, expensive plan."

Wilder is going to computer school. And, he said, if he can't be an air controller, he doesn't want anything to do with aviation.

Conway said his wife has gone back to work. His family relations are better because he's more relaxed, he said.

"I don't have the problems of work-

ing crazy shift hours," he said. "But I'm hopeful that the FAA will hire us back. The so-called strike isn't getting notoriety now. But Congress is aware."

About 60 percent of air controllers are Vietnam war veterans, according to Wilder.

"Some air controllers have been convicted of civil contempt for 'striking' and they've been sentenced to 10 days in jail," Wilder said. "They were dragged from the courtroom in shackles."

If the economy improves as predicted, the aviation industry will pick up substantially, Wilder said. Then there won't be enough controllers to handle the work, which should be a plus for those who are unemployed, he contended.

But for now, Cooper and Cohen say unemployment is leaving scars on many controllers. Like many in the Detroit area who have recently been laid off, the controllers are finding that unemployment can hurt psychologically as well as physically.

"I stand the risk of losing both homes," he said. "The delay of the Merit System Protection Board on acting on my appeal is causing emotional stress on my wife. It's having a negative affect on her chemotherapy treatment."

One unemployed controller said his wife had to go back to work. Their earnings have dropped from \$45,000 a year to \$7,000, he said.

One client has been an air controller for 29½ years and was up for retirement in six months with full pension. Now, he says, he's in limbo.



Gary Wilder grounded controller

Postal service announces schedule

The U.S. Postal Service will operate on a holiday schedule on the day observed as Washington's birthday, Monday, Feb. 15.

Farmington Postmaster Kenneth B. Harris said there will be no regular residential or business mail delivery. Special delivery, express mail and lock box service will be provided. Limited carrier service will be available only for customers who regularly pick up their mail. The service windows at both facilities will be open from 8 a.m. until 10 a.m. There will be no financial transactions.

Mail will be picked up from all residential collection boxes as late in the day as possible to meet first class mail service standards. All business collection boxes with the large 5.00, decal will be picked up after 5 p.m.

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REPORT OF CONDITION

Consolidating domestic subsidiaries of the Metropolitan National Bank of Farmington of Farmington Hills in the state of Michigan as of the close of business on December 31, 1981, published in response to call made by Comptroller of Currency, under Title 12, United States Code, Section 161.

Charter number 15049 National Bank of Region Number 7.

Statement of Resources and Liabilities	Thousands of dollars
Cash and due from depository institutions	2,291
U.S. Treasury securities	1,901
Obligations of other U.S. Government agencies and corporations	-0-
Obligations of States and political subdivisions in the United States	1,356
All other securities	27
Federal funds sold and securities purchased under agreements to resell	2,600
Loans, Total (excluding unearned income)	18,259
Less: Allowance for possible loan losses	160
Loans, Net	18,099
Lease financing receivables	-0-
Bank premises, furniture and fixtures, and other assets representing bank premises	838
Real estate owned other than bank premises	-0-
All other assets	354
TOTAL ASSETS	27,466
Demand deposits of individuals, partnerships, and corporations	7,573
Time and savings deposits of individuals, partnerships, and corporations	15,731
Deposits of United States Government	58
Deposits of States and political subdivisions in the United States	200
All other deposits	452
Certified and officers checks	477
Total Deposits	24,491
Total demand deposits	8,162
Total time and savings deposits	16,329
Federal funds purchased and securities sold under agreements to repurchase	-0-
Interest-bearing demand notes (note balances) issued to the U.S. Treasury and other liabilities for borrowed money	-0-
Mortgage indebtedness and liability for capitalized leases	-0-
All other liabilities	545
TOTAL LIABILITIES (excluding subordinated notes and debentures)	25,036
Subordinated notes and debentures	250
Preferred stock No shares outstanding	-0-
Common stock No shares authorized	52,168
No shares outstanding	52,168
Surplus	522
Undivided profits and reserve for contingencies and other capital reserves	420
Time certificates of deposit in denominations of \$100,000 or more	1,238
Other time deposits in amounts of \$100,000 or more	2,180
Average for 30 calendar days (or calendar month) ending with report date	-0-
Total deposits	24,577

We, the undersigned directors attest the correctness of this statement of resources and liabilities. We declare that it has been examined by us, and to the best of our knowledge and belief is true and correct.

I, LEON R. SERDYNSKI, Cashier
Executive V.P./Cashier

of the above-named bank do hereby declare that this Report of Condition is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

October 31, 1981

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