

County Officials Get Nurses' Pay Request

By John Elliott
Sentinel Staff Writer

Specific salary increase proposals and about 18 fringe benefit items were expected to be discussed today during a meeting requested by registered nurses at County General hospital in Santa Cruz.

To meet with an economic development committee of nurses were hospital and county representatives, including Dr. William Cress, medical director at the hospital; Dr. Gilbert Dunna-hoo, county health director; Carl Millar, county administrative officer; and Tom Black, chairman of the county board of supervisors.

Ralph Hartley, research director and chief negotiator for the California Nurses association, also was scheduled to be present but had to withdraw. He told nurses here today that in light of rapid developments in San Francisco Bay Area negotiations he would have to be present there.

Mrs. Grace Hopson, one of nine members of the committee at County General, said results of today's meeting "will determine what our next move will be."

Today's anticipated discussion of proposals by nurses at County General contradicted plans laid earlier this week by Mrs. E. J. Platt, Boulder Creek, president of District 13 of the CNA. District 13 is composed of the city of Santa Cruz.

Mrs. Platt said Tuesday that while proposals had been prepared they would not be presented at this time unless it appeared hospital administrators would accept them without major revision or negotiation.

Mrs. Platt stated late yesterday that County General's economic development committee apparently forwarded the proposals to the county board of supervisors. Mrs. Platt, also a member of the committee, which is headed by Mrs. Faith Brewer,

indicated she was not aware the proposals were to be released to county officials.

Receipt of salary and benefit requests was confirmed before the meeting began today by Millar, who declined to divulge what nurses at County General are seeking.

It was understood, however, about 18 points were included in addition to salary hike proposals. The benefit requests were said to cover items such as holiday and vacation schedules, shift hours, and variances for full-time and part-time nurses, among other things.

Today's meeting came as nurses returned to work at Eden hospital in Castro Valley on an interim basis, with final disposition of their contract demands dependent on negotiations between the CNA and 33 hospitals in the San Francisco Bay Area. Interim pay at Eden will be \$505 to \$663.

Should the CNA fail to reach agreement with all area hospitals, the Eden settlement depends on any agreement between nurses and the Associated Hospitals of the East Bay, according to an Associated Press report today.

At Eden, 97 out of 107 nurses resigned Sunday with the declaration they wanted pay to start at \$650 per month and reach \$950 a month after 10 years' service. They had received from \$425 to \$485.

Spokesmen for hospitals in that area said an offer of salary increases would be made to nurses in all 33 hospitals as soon as possible, probably by tomorrow. The offer is intended to nip threats by nurses to submit mass resignations.

Negotiations are being conducted by the California Conciliation service.

In San Rafael, the board at Marin General hospital has approved an increase effective August 1 to \$500 to \$710 a month for the hospital's 140

nurses. The new scale replaces salaries of \$430 to \$580 per month.

Administrators at Ross and Novato hospitals in Marin county claim they have offered the same increases.

On still another front of what has been described as a "revolution" of nurses, Kaiser Hospital Foundation nurses were issued resignation forms at a meeting in San Francisco last night, with accompanying advice to hold a mass resignation July 30 unless a salary agreement is reached. Kaiser nurses are seeking a master contract for over 1000 staff nurses in 15 hospitals and medical centers in the Bay Area and Sacramento.

The situation in Santa Cruz does not appear to be quite as explosive, with Mrs. Platt stating Tuesday she definitely does not expect a mass resignation or walkout at County General. While not ruling out the possibility, she said the situation here is not so severe since CNA and local nursing requests are being discussed by hospital administrators.

Nurses at County General begin at \$433 per month and increase to \$527. Nursing spokesmen say the top salary is reached after five years' service, which is mildly disputed by Charles Shean, county personnel director. Four wage increases to \$527 are accomplished in from 3½ to four years, not five, according to him.

The argument of nurses at County General that other area hospitals had pay raises a year ago holds little water, according to Shean, since the others raised to County General's level.

BANK OF ENGLAND UPS INTEREST RATE

London (AP) — The Bank of England's interest rate was raised one per cent — from 6 to 7 per cent today — to make money tighter at home and prop up the sagging pound.

Double Agent's Low Pay