

O'Bannon Defends Pennhurst

By RICH KIRKNER
Staff Writer

State Secretary of Welfare Helen B. O'Bannon said today that a medical crisis does not exist at the Pennhurst Center.

The official said at a press conference this morning that a consultant's survey of medical services at the Spring City facility is "a vicious and destructive tactic."

"The considerable publicity generated by plaintiffs about the consultants' report makes it necessary for me to assure the families of Pennhurst residents that the clients there are not medically at risk," she said.

O'BANNON held the press conference prior to today's federal court hearing on charges that Pennhurst does not provide adequate health care. Families of Pennhurst residents have sued the Commonwealth.

The consultants' report contains a "substantial number of factual errors," the secretary said. She said that the report is no longer valid because steps have been taken to improve medical care at Pennhurst.

She cited what she said were two factual inadequacies in that report, one being that the death rate at the facility is high by national standards, and the other being charges of medical neglect.

She refuted the first charge with a series of statistics. She said that 1.6 per 100 patients died, whereas the national average is 1.5, which she said wasn't bad considering that the patients are more medically involved than other patients at institutions. She added that the report suggests forcing of fluids into patients — a matter which Dr. Phillip Ziring, medical consultant for the Department of Welfare, said was exaggerated.

O'Bannon said, "I am concerned that his report is biased, that it is cursory, superficial, is narrow." She added that the report was compiled to make sensational headlines." O'Bannon called the press conference to ensure relatives of Pennhurst patients that the patients are receiving adequate health care.

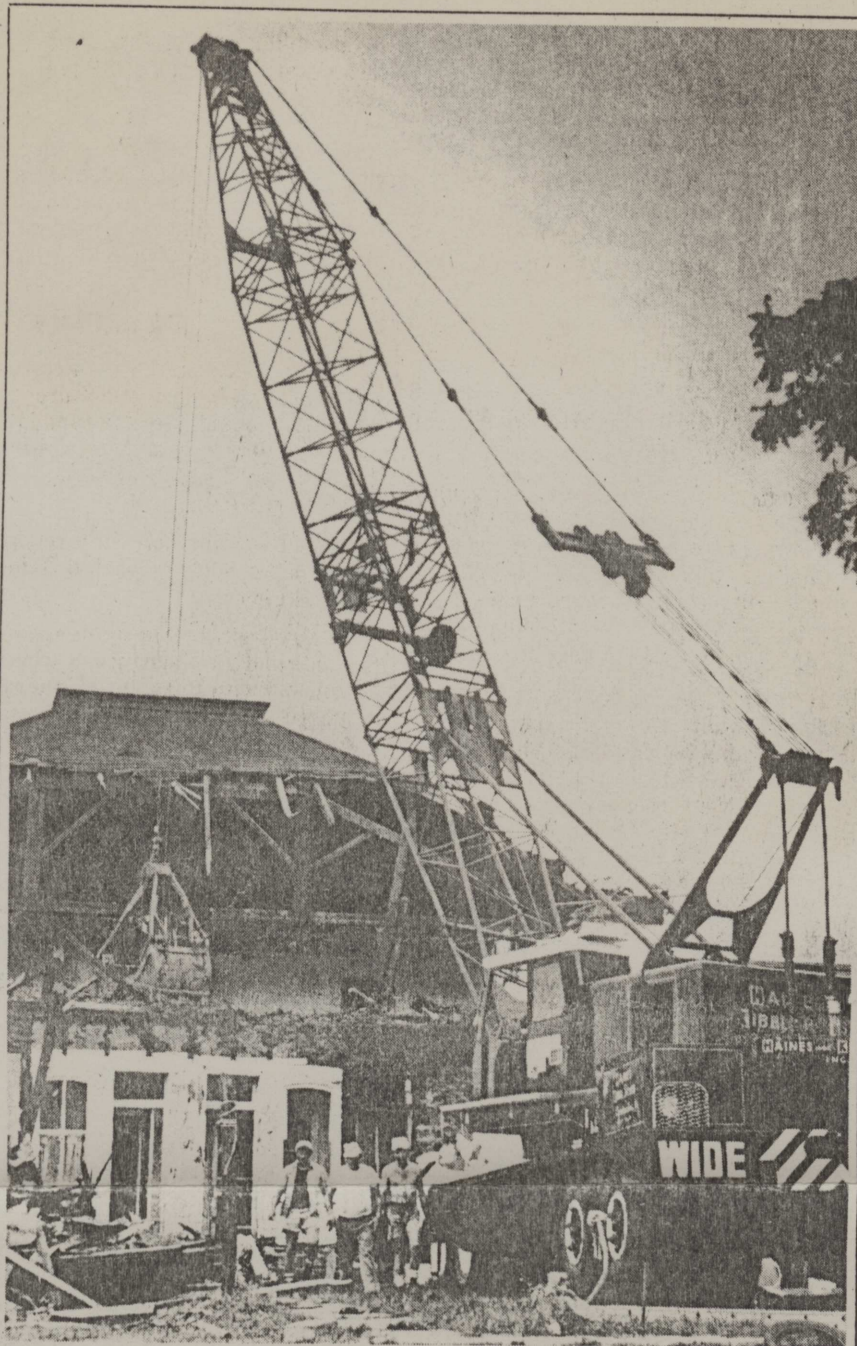
She added, "I want to reassure the staff that their efforts, while failing to make headlines," are not going unnoticed."

Cann & Saul Mediations Set For Wednesday

The first meeting between striking Cann & Saul Co. employees and management since the workers went on strike July 9 is set for Wednesday at one p.m. in Philadelphia.

A federal mediator is expected to be present.

The strike involves 115 steel workers,



Demolition

Photo by Jerry Hinkle

Workers began the tearing down of a building located at 204-206 Main Street, Royersford early last week. The demolition of the borough property began when employees of Haines and Kibblehouse, Inc., of Skippack started removing wiring and other interior structures, according to Otto Fox, borough director of public works. Actual demolition began Friday when workers started to remove the roof. The work is expected to take several days and will cost the borough about \$38,000. Fox said that the demolition workers must take extra precautions because the building is located very close to the other buildings still in use. Traffic is being rerouted on Main Street during working hours in case of falling debris.

Art Classes Offered At SF Evening School

Instructors at the Spring-Ford Adult Evening School will be canvassing the area for budding Picassos and potential Van Goghs when the program starts with some old and new art classes this fall.

According to Lucille Seltzer, director of adult education at Spring-Ford, art classes have been very popular with evening school participants. This year, the program will offer a number of classes in art and music beginning this September.

BASIC DRAWING will be taught by Mrs. Linda Beazley. Lessons in the class will include perspective, shadow composition, optical effects, magnifying and minifying styles. Other highlights of the course include collage

students can take one or both of the evening classes.

See SCHOOL, P2

Iran If We

By The Associated Press

Iran's Parliament spoke today in reaction to the detention of students in the United States today that the Parliament's reaction to American hostages is "a vicious and destructive tactic" and preparations for "spies" might soon be made, Radio reported.

Iranian President Abolmohammad Khatami called on the detention of students, meanwhile, to resist the U.S. authorities, "so they don't drag you into the planes."

Alleged police mistreatment of 193 young Iranians, who were taken during a demonstration in Washington, touched off bitter protests in Iran, demanding that the release of the 52 American hostages begin immediately.

Revolutionary leader Ruhollah Khomeini has said the fate of the hostages began their 10th month in the hands of the Iranian or Majlis. Almost 200 U.S. citizens recently wrote to Majlis Hashemi Rafsanjani asking the issue be given top priority.

BUT TODAY, speaking at a morning session of the Majlis, Khatami was quoted as reacting (to the Iranians') to postpone the discussion of the American congress respect the Majlis has suggested that the Supreme Leader should be asked to prepare for the trial of the hostages.

The statement was reported on a Tehran radio in a program monitored in London. It was determined immediately that the trial plans were.

SC Council Meets Tonight

The regular monthly meeting of the Spring City Borough Council is held tonight at 7:30 at the Borough Hall.

Borough Secretary Catherine said no public hearings or are scheduled for tonight. Members will attend to borough business.

The public is invited to meeting in the council chamber at Church and Hall Streets, Spring City.

