



TODAY'S DOLLAR



129.98 yen, down .67 yen, in trading in London.

TODAY'S GOLD



\$291.10 troy oz., down 60 cents, in trading in London.

TODAY'S SILVER



\$5.86 troy oz., up 16 cents, in trading in London.

YOUNGSTOWN

Suit dismissal to lead to GF payout

■ Everyone involved in the 8-year-old GF case wants to get it resolved as soon as possible, a lawyer says.

By DON SHILLING
VINDICATOR BUSINESS EDITOR

YOUNGSTOWN — Former GF Corp. workers are closer to receiving \$2 million for unpaid medical bills and outstanding severance pay, a lawyer said.

Judge Peter Economus of U.S. District Court in Youngstown

dismissed a class-action lawsuit Thursday, which was the last major obstacle to resolving GF's 8-year-old bankruptcy court case, said Atty. David Fusco, who represents workers in the bankruptcy case.

A \$3.75 million settlement reached in U.S. Bankruptcy Court in July was contingent on the dismissal of the workers' class-action suit.

After a 30-day appeal period passes on the suit dismissal, GF Office Furniture Systems Ltd. is expected to begin filing documents needed to pay claims, Fusco said. He declined to estimate when workers would begin receiving money.

"There are a number of things that have to be wrapped up at bankruptcy court before checks are actually issued. But everyone involved wants to get this wrapped up," he said.

What's in deal: The deal calls for GF Office Furniture Systems, which bought GF assets in 1990, to pay \$3.75 million to the GF estate. Chicago industrialist Cyrus Tang bought GF assets but didn't reopen the local manufacturing plant, where 300 people had worked.

Workers said the maker of office furniture stuck them with unpaid medical bills and didn't make good on severance pay

when it filed for bankruptcy protection in 1990. The company hadn't been making payments to its insurance company.

Fusco said the medical bills amount to about \$1.2 million and severance pay to about \$800,000. Judge William Bodoh of bankruptcy court gave workers' claims priority over other claims in 1990.

About suit: Atty. Thomas C. Wagner, who represented workers in the class-action suit, said money left over after those claims are paid could be used to pay other debtors and other claims filed by workers, including vacation pay owed.

Wagner said the class-action suit was filed in 1990 over money and benefits owed to workers, including lifetime medical benefits for retirees. Those lifetime benefits weren't restored in the settlement.

"That's the great tragedy in all this," Wagner said.

Wagner said he endorsed the settlement, however, because he didn't think it was in the workers' best interest for the case to drag out any longer. Tang had been dismissed from the class-action suit and the workers were appealing that decision.

He said no workers requested

a chance to speak against the settlement Thursday.

Atty. Michael Gallo, who represents GF, couldn't be reached for comment.

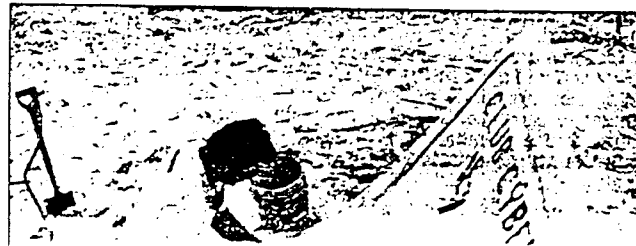
Settlement: The original purchase agreement called for a sale price of \$6 million, but the parties later settled on \$5 million.

Tang already has paid \$1.25 million to the estate.

The deal, however, allows \$250,000 of the settlement to be used in payment of a claim filed by the General Services Administration.

FLORIDA

IBM recruits at the beach



YOUNGSTOWN

Eagle: Store is closing because