

whose fiancée Sandra Edge leaves with the Silver Ferns on Wednesday for the world netball championships in Birmingham. Gray, a policeman, was to join a three-day course in Whangarei yesterday and the couple planned a brief meeting at Auckland airport. Edge arranged leave from the Ferns training camp only to be told at the airport that Gray would not be arriving till today.

Child stolen

A boy, 4, was inadvertently stolen along with a car in Auckland. Police said the woman who left her son in her car for only a matter of seconds had also left the keys in it. The thief got the car stuck in mud about a kilometre away and ran off.

WORLD

Mine fire kills six

An underground fire in which six miners were killed and eight others injured at the St Helena gold mine near Welkom in South Africa's Free State province yesterday has been sealed off. Nine men returning to the surface noticed smoke about 1800 metres below the surface. Six of them, knowing that three of their colleagues were still coming up, rushed back through the smoke to warn them. Three did not return and died with the three miners they tried to warn.

BUSINESS

Call to reject code

The Government should reject the formal takeovers code, requiring equal treatment of minority shareholders, and



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Firefighters work for no

PROFESSIONAL firefighters in Wellington and Auckland have offered to work for no pay to compensate for staff cuts, effective from today, that they claim will endanger lives. The cuts in on-duty positions — five in Wellington, four in Auckland, and two each in Christchurch and Dunedin — would affect the staffing of specialist fire vehicles needed at high-rise buildings, hospitals, restaurants and other properties with the potential for big fires. Professional Firefighters Union secretary Derek Best said last night.

Mr. Best said Christchurch and Dunedin firefighters would also be considering soon whether they will work for no pay.

He said the specialist vehicles were on predetermined first turn-outs to many big fires, but the staff cuts might mean they would not arrive immediately, if at all, because of delays in calling extra staff in from home to work them.

Staff levels on normal fire trucks might also be affected because firefighters would be pulled from them to work on the specialist vehicles.

Fire Service spokesman Vic Hewson rejected the claim the specialist vehicles were needed as first responses to fires and said it cost

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