

Don't Let Troops Go, Kerrey Says

By Gabriella Stern

Lincoln — Gov. Kerrey objected Tuesday to the U.S. Defense Department's apparent plan to send part of the Nebraska Air National Guard to train in Honduras next year.

Kerrey said Pentagon officials will be in Nebraska Jan. 6 to brief him and Gov.-elect Kay Orr. He said orders to send members of the Air Guard unit to train in Honduras in April will apparently follow the briefing.

In September, Kerrey blocked a Pentagon plan to deploy part of the Nebraska Air Guard's 35th Civil Engineering Squadron to Central America next spring.

"Politically Inexpedient"

At the time, Mrs. Orr said the training would be a valuable experience and would broaden the guardsmen's skills.

Kerrey said Pentagon officials deliberately chose to set the briefing two days before Mrs. Orr takes office because they are aware of his opposition.

"It is politically inexpedient," he said. "It gives Gov.-elect Orr a decision she doesn't need right now. The last thing she needs is to have the Guard coming smoking in here and say: 'Stand by, because orders are coming in all-around.'"

Unthinkable

Kerrey said he fears for the well-being of Air Guard members training near the Nicaraguan border.

"There are plenty of places for them to train without sending them to Honduras. I don't think they're safe in Honduras. It's too close to a combat zone," Kerrey said.

"The unthinkable happened with Hassan, and the unthinkable could happen with a Nebraska," said Kerrey, referring to Eugene Hassan, an American mercenary who last week was pardoned from a 30-year prison term in Nicaragua. "They're going into a near-combat zone."

He said that the U.S. military involvement in Central America is "a thirty second CIA operation" and that the assignment of U.S. troops in places such as Honduras "doesn't enjoy the support of Nebraska, let alone of the American people."

Navy SEAL

"If a member of the National Guard goes to Honduras and is killed, whose responsibility is it? I feel, at the moment, it is mine. I have been responsible for people in combat operations. I take that responsibility very seriously."

Kerrey saw combat in the Vietnam War as a Navy SEAL. (See, Air, Land)

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Prof. Kerrey On Faculty For 10 Weeks

Santa Barbara, Calif. (AP) — Nebraska Gov. Kerrey is scheduled to begin teaching at the University of California at Santa Barbara students in January about the impact the Vietnam War had on him personally and politically.

The 43-year-old Democrat, who won the governorship in 1982 in his first run for public office, will be a visiting professor for 10 weeks at the university, said Walter Capps, a religious studies professor.

Kerrey, stepping down after a four-year term in office, also will co-teach government classes in the political science department when the semester begins in early January. The Medal of Honor winner leaves office Jan. 7.

Capps, formerly of Omaha, said he asked Kerrey to lecture during "The Impact of the Vietnam War" course. "He wanted some time after leaving the governorship to do some writing and reflecting, and this is what this is all about," Capps said.

Capps has been teaching the course since 1979. The course, which involves up to 30 veterans, has attracted at least 1,500 students each time it has been offered. The class includes a trip to the Vietnam War Memorial in Washington.

"We hear so much about the difficulties of the vets, such as post-traumatic stress. The class studies how the war can be used for constructive purposes. Bob will discuss whether it affected him and spurred his involvement in state government," Capps said.

Nebraska Figures Studied Drunken-Driving Record Called Worse for Carriers

Lincoln (AP) — A Nebraska statistical survey indicated more than three times as many offenses for driving while intoxicated by commercial carriers, including truck drivers, as by car drivers, a state official said.

Bill Kennedy, administrator of the Nebraska Department of Motor Vehicles driver services division, used a computer to randomly select files on 100 commercial carrier licenses and 100 Class A automobile drivers' licenses.

Among the Class A drivers, Kennedy said, he found six offenses for driving while intoxicated, six serious traffic law violations, three suspensions or revocations, 13 accidents and a total of 44 assessment points for violations.



Freshly cut tree will keep spirit of Christmas alive in Hilber home... With the tree at St. Vinitus Catholic Church in Touhy are, front row from left, Kathryn, Mrs. Hilber, Jordan, Quintina and David Jr. In the rear: Francis Mathew held by Mat Sabatka.

123 Days There; 23 Back Covered-Wagon Family Home in Time for Holiday

By Tom Allan

Touhy, Neb. — Nebraska's covered wagon family is back home in this Saunders County village in time for Christmas, reassured of the holiday's true spirit of peace on earth and good will toward men.

"The spirit is still there," David Hilber said Monday after he and his family returned home from their 1,500-mile trek by covered wagon from Nebraska to Washington, D.C.

"Too many people just don't know where to find it. Our kids learned it firsthand."

The group was still exhausted after its nearly five-month trip. Hilber and his wife, Angelina, and their children — Kathryn, 14, Jordan, 12, Quintina, 10, David Jr., 4, and Francis Mathew, 1, were accompanied by Alfonso, the family dog, and Carlo Dill, Mrs. Hilber's brother.

The trip began July 27. They reached the nation's capital Nov. 26 after 123 days of about 2 1/2 mph.

Drenched by 40 days of rain during the trek, the Hilbers endured breakdowns and hardships much like their wagon train predecessors. A week's delay was caused when Quintina was kicked by one of the three Belgian horses and had to be hospitalized in Illinois.

"We had our share of boredom and loneliness, homesickness, fatigue, contrariness, discouragement and doubt," Hilber said. "We will not say that the trip was an undiluted dose of pure fun."

Firefighters Search Apartment Building After Three-Alarm Blaze

Omaha firefighters were called to a three-alarm blaze early today that apparently started in the basement of a three-story apartment building at 3066 Harney St., authorities said.

Acting Assistant Fire Chief Jack Conry said the blaze started in the basement and spread up the rear walls to the third floor.

Conry said the additional alarms were called because of the thick smoke in the building.

"But once we opened it up, it really blossomed," he said.

Firefighters had the blaze, reported at 12:10 a.m., under control about 2:40 a.m. Conry said firefighters were searching the apartments early today to make sure no one was still asleep.

Summer Groundbreaking Possible for Track in Iowa

Des Moines (AP) — With a county guarantee in his pocket, horse promoter Richard Wilkey said Tuesday he looks forward to building Iowa's only pari-mutuel Thoroughbred track.

Fresh from a victory from the Pull County Board of Supervisors, Wilkey said he hoped to set \$40 million in bonds and raise another \$5 million in the next few months, breaking ground for the track near Altoona next summer.

"This takes the ball out of the county's court and into the developer's court," he said.

Vote

The supervisors, breaking along party lines, voted 3 to 2 to back the bonds, meaning taxpayers in Iowa's largest county could face a debt of up to \$12 million over 28 years if the track fails.

"It's a risk worth taking," said Supervisor Martha White, whose vote was the only one in question before Tuesday. Voting yes, she said, "sends a signal that we're confident in our future."

She joined two other Democrats to pro-

vide the winning margin, with both Republicans voting no.

Wilkey, head of the Racing Association of Central Iowa, declined to guess when the first race would be run.

But Ed Skinner, an Altoona attorney representing citizens in favor of the project, said the track could be built in a year and a half.

"It could be done by the fall of 1986 if everything falls into place," Skinner said.

Backers say the track could hire as many as 1,400 people, providing a \$92 million payroll.

The supervisors' chamber was jammed with outsiders Tuesday, with those on one side being mostly members of church groups in opposition to the county guarantee and visitors on the other side in favor of the action.

One supporter, Gary Palmer, owner of the Des Moines Mattress Co. in Altoona, said the county had a choice of backing the track or watching unem-

ployment and taxes rise.

"You can sit still and go broke or go out and do something," he said. "People think property taxes are high. Now, but Firestone is ready to pull out. John Deere is on the rocks. What's going to happen to taxes when these places leave?"

Opponents said they were disappointed and didn't know where they could take another stand against the project.

"It seems like the supervisors are ignoring what the majority of the people want and are going with how they think they can make some money," said Mike Laska, a member of the Assembly of God. "They didn't consider any of the moral issues."

Testimony The supervisors heard hours of testimony on the project during last Monday and kept their comments short Tuesday. Supervisors Richard Brant and Jack Babop said the track would

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Recall Foes Say Campaign Isn't Boyle Defense

By Kevin Collison

A campaign announced Tuesday to oppose the recall of Mayor Boyle is not intended as a defense of Mayor Mike Boyle's activities in every controversial instance, organizers said.

Citizens Against a Recall Effort (CARE) said the negative impact of a successful recall on Omaha's reputation outweighs concerns over Boyle's personal style.

The group, headed by attorneys E. Benjamin Nelson and Alan Jensen, formally launched its effort Tuesday. Originally, a recall would hurt Omaha's reputation, growth and economy.

Organizers said they will focus on Boyle's achievements during his 5 1/2 years in office, his leadership on economic and social issues, and the "questionable tactics" of having a new mayor selected by the City Council and not by the general public.

"In addition, CARE plans to emphasize the lack of real substance in a majority of the opposition complaints and to argue for fairness and common sense in deciding this important step," the statement said.

Boyle's recall election will be held Jan. 13.

City council and anti-recall officials said they will raise money for a "limited media campaign."

Steve Durhan, president of Durhan Resources Inc., Bernice Conway Jr., associate publisher of the Omaha Star, and owner of the Fivehouse Open Theatre; Bob Armstrong, executive director of the Omaha Housing Authority; and Ernest Young, president for general sales at Mutual of Omaha, will be sponsors.

Dane "Woody" Bradford III, an attorney; Robert T. Kelly, a University of Nebraska at Omaha professor; Henry Label, retired insurance writer; William E. Ramsey, owner of Bill Ramsey Associates, a public relations firm; Eugene Saville, a public school district administrator now working for Ramsey; and Tom "T" Anderson, president of Mid-Continent Cold Storage; Bob Bousler, director of community relations at Northwestern Bell; Frank J. Borer, president of the Omaha Chamber of Commerce; and Don Sirtes, president of the Omaha Chamber of Commerce, are also sponsors.

The event, sponsored by the Metro Right to Life organization, will be held at the Peony Park Ballroom. Additional information is available from the group's office at 2017 Leavenworth St.

Notre Dame Professor To Speak at Dinner

Charles Rice, professor at the University of Notre Dame Law School, will be the featured speaker at the 14th annual "Celebration of Life" dinner Jan. 23 in Omaha.

The event, sponsored by the Metro Right to Life organization, will be held at the Peony Park Ballroom. Additional information is available from the group's office at 2017 Leavenworth St.

Three-Alarm Blaze

Carl Perry said she was inside her first-floor apartment when the "building started making weird sounds."

"I thought it was coming from the neighbor's apartment. I didn't realize it would be anything like this."

Mrs. Perry said the building contains 18 apartments.

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Three Groups Seek Input On Mayor Replacement

By Kevin Collison

Discussion about who should replace Mayor Boyle if he loses the recall election has progressed to the point that three groups plan to approach the City Council on the issue, James Cleary said Tuesday.

"They realize there will be a new mayor and want input on who that will be," he said. "One group wants to lobby the council, another will put forward a candidate, and the third group isn't sure what it will do."

Cleary, spokesman for Citizens for Mature Leadership, the backers of the recall, said he attended meetings of the groups in recent weeks.

No involvement He said the recall organization is not suggesting a replacement for Boyle.

"I've told them great, but our group doesn't want to get involved," Cleary said.

Cleary spoke at a J.C. Oldtimers luncheon at the Jewish Community Center. He outlined the purposes of the recall and fielded questions.

"I'm frequently asked to name reasons for the recall," he said. "It's difficult. There are so many different reasons that if you pinpoint one, it seems trivial."

"It's a pattern of incidents that add up to an abuse of power," he said.

It was a question about the City Council's role in selecting a new mayor that prompted Cleary to mention the groups intending to lobby on the issue.

"I'll be the first to admit, the weak-

talk in the system is that the City Council will elect an interim mayor," he said.

"I know of some business groups organizing now to lobby the council, and I think the council will be open to suggestions."

Cleary would not identify the members of the three groups. He said they would not remain anonymous and probably won't reveal themselves until after Jan. 13 recall election.

"The people I've talked to envision someone with business and management experience," Cleary said. "I think the people they'd look for is someone who isn't a lifetime politician."

Outside Council He said one group, wanting a replacement mayor from outside the council, had about 50 people. Another group intending to lobby the council about what it wants in a new mayor has about 200 people involved.

The last, unspecified group includes a "couple of key businessmen," Cleary said.

"They wanted my perspective," he said. "I didn't have much to offer except encouragement."

He said Citizens for Mature Leadership had not said whether it would prefer that a council member or an outsider be appointed mayor, should Boyle lose the recall election.

"I wouldn't rule the council out," he said. "I want them to have an open mind and consider other community leaders and business leaders. It's not a closed shop."

Official Defends Honduras Trip

Dubuque, Iowa (AP) — A U.S. Army spokesman Tuesday defended the use of Army reserve personnel from Iowa and other Midwest states to build a road in northern Honduras.

Lt. Col. Melvin Wasserman said at a press conference that the reservists will be building a farm-to-market road that has no military use.

About 4,300 Army reservists and National Guard personnel from Iowa and six other Midwest states will work on the road next year.

Officials said the troops will build a little more than three miles of road through mountainous terrain as

part of a project that will take 30 years to finish.

Wasserman said the U.S. soldiers will be in no danger because they will be 200 miles from the Nicaraguan border where recent fighting occurred.

The first group will leave Jan. 9 for Honduras, with the last group returning by the first of June.

The 30-foot-wide dirt and gravel road will connect the Caribbean seaports of Puerto Cortes and La Ceiba, Wasserman said.

In addition to Iowa, the reservists and guardsmen who will take part in the exercise are from Minnesota, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan and Ohio.



Three Reasons to Jump for Joy Eight-year-old Bud Chappell appears to be jumping for joy Monday near his home at 31st and Paul Streets. And why not? The weather is great, and it's the holidays (and Christmas is almost here).



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Nebraska Figures St. 1



# Horse Track For Iowa Gets All-Clear Signal

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be an economic shot in the arm.

"Do we want to stagnate in the past or be a progressive city and move ahead in the 20th century?" Bishop said.

Opponents said the track was ill-conceived and that taxpayers should not be asked to shoulder the risk. "There's only one good answer," said supervisor