

Copter Flights Will End, Lawsuit Will Be Dropped

By OWEN COYLE
Of The Capital Times Staff

Plans to seek a federal court injunction aimed at halting Army helicopter flights into Truax Field will be dropped because the Army says it is ending the operation here.

Robert Gruber, attorney for a group of area residents who oppose the flights, said today that the group had, in effect, won its battle.

While the Army says there will be four more flights into Truax—two this month and two in June, Gruber said that amounted to a face-saving gesture.

"We believe they've stopped the mission here," Gruber said. "We believe they don't want to admit it. But the effect of it is that we've won."

"Therefore we won't be filing the action."

Gruber said the petition for a federal injunction was scheduled to be filed in federal court here Thursday.

It would have been based on a contention that the Army did not meet requirements of a federal code requiring federal agencies to consult with area residents and local officials before beginning such an operation.

It also would have argued that the Army violated provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act which require an environmental impact statement before any federally licensed activity which may significantly affect the environment can be carried out.

That provision was cited by New York State Attorney General Louis J. Lefkowitz in an action filed in federal court in New York Tuesday which sought a halt to plutonium shipments into New York City.

Among defendants named in that action are the U.S. State Department, the Federal Aviation Agency, and the Civil Aeronautics Board.

Gruber said he had been assured by an Army spokesman in Washington today that the remaining copter flights would be limited to four and the mayor's office would be consulted before similar operations are undertaken.

Mayor Paul Soglin described the Army move as the result of public pressure.

"And it's nice to know that the next time they pull this type of operation, they will notify local officials," he said.

Soglin called attention to the flights initially and sought the aid of Wisconsin's congressional delegation in having them halted.

He said the flights carried nuclear components for anti-ballistic missiles and posed a serious hazard to city residents.

Gruber said earlier Army statements laid out plans for continuing the helicopter fly-ins

for another eight weeks.

Due to local pressure and the intervention of Reps. Robert Kastenneier and Les Aspin, Gruber said, the flights were sharply curtailed.

The four remaining flights, he

said, amount to an admission that the operation is being ended.

Gruber said the Army spokesman, Wolf Retke, told him that written confirmation on the flight limitations and assurances that local officials will be con-

tacted in the future, would be sent to Mayor Soglin.

Among those who said they would seek court intervention was James Rowen, Soglin's administrative aide, and Wisconsin Environmental Decade.

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Yellow Cab's Sale Talk Deception, Strikers Say

By JOHN HAUG
Of The Capital Times Staff

Is the Yellow Cab Company serious about selling out, or is its talk of liquidation just a smoke-screened attempt to end a strike by busting the employe union?

Attorneys for the company say the talk is serious. As proof, they point to the fact that the facility at 627 E. Millin St. has been put up for sale and nine cabs from the fleet already have been sold. But striking employes, members of Teamsters Local 685, say it may all be just a smokescreen. They say the building was for sale before the strike, and the sale of nine cabs is normal turnover for the company in a year.

Employes have been on strike at the facility since April 1. Following their last bargaining session April 22, the company announced that it would liquidate if the union did not accept its last offer.

That offer was the same economically as previous offers and amounted to a decrease in benefits from the previous contract.

The proposal was made, the company says, because it has no money for wage and fringe benefit increases.

In the meantime, Kilkelly said the company is serious and is going ahead with plans to liquidate. Other than the previous nine cabs, no more have been sold, but the company continues its attempts to negotiate a sale, he said.

Kilkelly admitted the building was up for sale before the strike, but said it was an attempt by the owner to find a smaller building in hopes of cutting down on expenses, particularly rent.

Ironically, the building is owned by the same man who owns the company, Kenneth C. Ossmann. Thus, Ossmann, in attempting to find smaller quarters and pay less rent, would in effect be paying himself less.

Concerning the recent sale of nine cabs, Kilkelly denied this was normal turnover. Turnover means the old cabs would be

replaced, he said, and the company hasn't bought new cabs since 1972.

Local 685 Secretary-Treasurer Robert Rutland said he isn't sure the company's liquidation announcement is a smokescreen.

Rutland likened it more to a poker game, and said if the company is playing poker, "we're calling their hand."

In a related matter, Rutland has criticized local media for supposedly not giving both sides of the Yellow Cab strike story.

In a letter to all media, Rutland states: "The media has basically been unsympathetic to the workers' plight. For whatever reasons, the union's side of the story remains largely untold. Realizing that the media's

interests and those of the workers are usually not in agreement, we nevertheless would like to give our side of the story."

Rutland goes on to charge that the deeper issues underlying the strike center around Ossmann's hatred of the union since it bargained its first contract with the company in 1974.

Rutland questions how the company could operate in Madison for 40 years and run into financial difficulties only the past year and a half.

Finally, Rutland criticizes working conditions at Yellow Cab and says a major goal of the strike, aside from money, is to make Yellow "a pleasant place to work, not a place to go to work and be humiliated every day."

\$7 Million Courthouse Approved for Madison

The federal Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has approved a \$7 million courthouse for Madison, one-fifth the size of a federal building originally under consideration.

The original building, under consideration for three and a half years, had an estimated cost of \$9 million.

The new building will have 35,000 square feet of space and will house two federal judges and related court functions. It will be located on the downtown block bounded by West Dayton, North Henry, West Millin and North Brown Streets.

The original building would have housed the Internal Revenue Service, the Small Business Administration and other federal agencies.

It was trimmed back, according to Mayor Paul Soglin, because OMB officials "were having a rough time justifying construction costs as opposed to rental."

"It seems to me that they could not justify the construction of a federal building for federal offices given the rental situation in Madison," Soglin said.

A Chamber of Commerce survey earlier this year reported

that was more than 1.6 million square feet of commercial and governmental space vacant in Madison.

Although Western Wisconsin now has only one federal judge, a second judgeship is expected to be created in the near future. The Senate Judiciary Committee voted Tuesday to include a second judge for this area among the 30 new federal judgeships it endorsed.

Man Hears Shotguns

Police were summoned to the 200 block of Langdon Street early today on a report that someone on a roof was shooting at clay pigeons.

Before the two officers arrived, the caller said he heard a third gun blast, saw a muzzle flash and heard what he thought was a clay pigeon strike and shatter in the street.

The officers said they couldn't find anyone, but one person claimed firecrackers were being exploded by some nearby residents.



And, Air Conditioning Too

Gary Grassman, 822 W. Lakeside St., wanted a van that was a little out of the ordinary, so he and a friend added the top of a former Volkswagen as a skylight. Capital Times Staff Photographer Bruce Fritz took this shot of the deep-gold, heavily

modified 1969 Chevy van parked on N. Carroll St. The sun-roof on the van's upper level opens, and a friend said the breeze takes the place of air conditioning in the summer.

Soglin Breaks Council Tie To Place Pederson on PFC

By ROSEMARY KENDRICK
Of The Capital Times Staff

Half of the City Council — 11 men — who opposed the appointment of an active feminist to the Madison Police and Fire Commission not only lost the battle Tuesday night but were sent scurrying for cover in the process.

"For too long this society has been male dominated," snapped Ald. Betty Smith, 19th District, herself a long-time feminist. "You're going to have to work pretty hard to persuade people this isn't a sexist thing."

"I just don't see how long you can continue to say 'I'm not sexist,' when I feel you are acting as though you are."

Judy Pederson's appointment to the PFC, which has been an on-again, off-again affair for several weeks as the Council deliberated, finally slipped through Tuesday when Mayor Paul Soglin broke the Council's tie vote.

"It is my pleasure to vote aye," Soglin announced emphatically with a smile, bringing on applause and cries of "right on!" from the audience and some Council members.

Firefighters Union Local 311 led the fight against Pederson's confirmation, and Tuesday night union president Charles Merkle formally told the Council why.

His prime objection seemed to be that Pederson has a "single point of view" — that is, her desire to get women hired as firefighters. "We don't believe it's in the best interests of the fire service" to have her on the PFC, he said.

He said the union would accept "any applicant who is qualified under the present standards" but it does not want firefighters hired solely "to prove a point or to further the progress of women or minorities."

Merkle backed off from previous complaints that Pederson favored a lowering of present Fire Department hiring standards, and Pederson herself said she supports the existing standards.

Besides the firefighters, strong opposition also had come from three downtown aldermen who charged that Pederson could not represent the concerns of central-city residents on such issues as police "affinity files" and use of hollow-point bullets.

"Someone who has been beaten up by the police in a demonstration" should be appointed to the PFC instead, 9th District Ald. Richard Gross suggested. (Soglin later asked Pederson if she was familiar with "police harassment") and she replied, "Do you mean, have I been maced? Yes I have."

The mayor's response to the argument of Gross and Aldermen Roney Sorenson, 5th District, and Robert Weidenbaum, 8th District, was that the PFC has a narrow function, limited to acting as a personnel board for the police and fire departments, and cannot legally involve itself in police policy matters.

Pederson served on the Citizens' Screening Committee for Fire Department hiring, is a member of the city's Affirmative Action

State Budget Uncertainty Has Reinke in a Bind

By HOWARD COSGROVE
Of The Capital Times Staff

It's a bit difficult to know how much you can spend when you don't know how much you have, but that's the position Dane County and every other municipal government in the state may be in in the next few months.

Police Have No Leads In Robbery

Police investigators admitted today they have "absolutely nothing" further to go on in the search for a lone gunman who robbed the First Federal Savings and Loan Co., 202 State St., late Tuesday morning.

The robber, wearing a wig and a false mustache, drew a bank official outside the bank by telling a cashier that his truck had hit and damaged the building. Once outside, the robber pulled a gun and ordered the official back inside and to fill a green trash can liner with money.

The bandit escaped with about \$730.

"We know as much now as we did yesterday," one police officer said. He added that "at least half a dozen" men were detained briefly for identification purposes following the holdup, but that no one is being held as a suspect.

It was the fifth robbery of a banking institution here this year, and the second at First Federal Savings and Loan on State Street. A total of three armed persons, one of them possibly a woman, remain at large in connection with separate bank holdups here.

Dane County Executive George Reinke today fired off a letter to the county's assemblymen and senators complaining that the state budget bill doesn't give him time to prepare and submit the county's budget this fall.

He is scheduled to submit his completed budget to the County Board by Oct. 15. But he won't know until Oct. 24 how much the county will get in state shared taxes. The county got \$3,306,366 in shared taxes this year.

And he will have to wait until Nov. 15 to learn how much of a tax levy increase the state will allow the county to have this year — probably 8 or 9 per cent.

The result would be a budget that would detail how much the county wanted to spend, but which could not say whether the money would be available.

Reinke suggested both dates be changed to early October. The Nov. 15 date, he said "is totally unrealistic."

Reinke is also worried that a limit on the county's 1976 tax levy would mean cuts in major programs started this year. Major increases in county expenses include operation of the airport, a new Huber Law shelter, a juvenile shelter and early work on a sanitary landfill.

"I support the placement of certain limits on county and local units of government budgeting," Reinke told the legislators. "However, such limitations should be realistic and practical."

"If it is intended that Wisconsin counties should provide more county-wide services in the future, the proposed legislation can hardly be expected to encourage that effort," he letter continued.

A Weighty Matter



Judy Pederson

A Weighty Matter

Ald. Jay Wexler found himself immersed in a potential conflict of interest situation at Tuesday night's City Council meeting.

A few years ago, Wexler announced, the person who was presently asking the Council for a conditional use permit "sold me a sailing boat that sank six weeks after I bought it." As his colleagues began chuckling, the heavy-set Wexler added emphatically, "when I was not aboard."

Council Roll Call

Commissioner and is coordinator of the Dane County Women's Political Caucus.

Despite her strong feminist background, she assured the Council that "I do have an open mind and I am a reasonable person" and promised to look at all sides of issues.

Some of the men who voted against Pederson later were going around denying female accusations that they were male chauvinists of the barnyard variety. While the downtown aldermen had their definite point of view, others were extremely vague when pressed as to why they opposed the appointment.

The opponents were from all parts of the city and of widely varying political persuasions. Several — Richard Disch, Leonard Knutson, Roger Staven, in particular — have close labor ties. The same cannot be said for an alderman such as Anthony "Nino" Amato, who sided with them.

In other action, the Council:

• Gave final authorization to a contract between the city and the New York architectural firm of Hardy Holzman Pfeiffer Associates for planning the renovation of the Capitol Theater as a civic center. The vote was 13-6; opponents were Amato, Disch,

Following is the City Council vote on the confirmation of Judy Pederson, an active feminist, to the Police and Fire Commission. Mayor Soglin broke the tie in favor of the appointment.

TO CONFIRM — Arnold, Ashman, Beaver, Christopher, Imm, Ley, Murdoch, Sack, Smith, Wuennenberg, Zimmerman — 11.

AGAINST — Amato, Disch, Emmerich, Gross, Knutson, Shivers, Sorenson, Staven, Thorson, Weidenbaum, Wexler — 11.

Emmerich, Ley, Staven and Wexler. Shivers was absent for the roll call. Ley called the architects' fees "excessive," while Amato objected to selecting an out-of-state firm.

• Authorized the Building Inspection Department to order repairs to non-functioning stoves and refrigerators, in addition to plumbing, heating and electrical services, when those appliances are part of an apartment rental agreement.

• Approved an ordinance requiring utilities to notify customers at least five days in advance of any proposed utility service cutoffs, and providing that the city's public health director can declare a "medical emergency" if such an action would threaten the person's health or well-being, which would result in a 21-day delay of the service cutoff. Ald. Michael Sack, 13th District, sponsored both this and the above ordinance.

• Scheduled a hearing on plans for a new South Beltline for Tuesday night, May 27. To be discussed are 14 recommendations made by a joint citizen-governmental study committee.

• Accepted a grant from the Wisconsin Council on Criminal Justice for \$7,200 to allow the Police Department to buy portable alarm systems to be used in areas where there is a high incidence of armed robbery. The systems will provide for instantaneous notification of the police.

• Referred to the Board of Estimates a proposal that the city offer \$430,000 to the Lake Monona Development Partnership to purchase the old Fauerbach Brewery site for a city park. Some aldermen said this cannot allow, it, and it is questionable whether the partnership would sell at that price. On the other hand, it was pointed out that the city has a policy of acquiring lakefront property where feasible. The site is on Lake Monona east of Capitol Square.

Reporters Find Kohls Price Cuts Real

MILWAUKEE (AP) — The chairman of the state Democratic party made his supermarkets' records available to newsmen Tuesday in response to accusations of deceptive price reductions.

Herbert H. Kohl, president of a supermarket and department store chain, had offered to show his price records to news media after a Democratic legislator asked him to confirm the legitimacy of advertised price cuts or resign as party chairman.

The Milwaukee Sentinel said it explored Kohl's records, and could find no evidence of systematic padding of prices prior to the chain's April 21 announcement of price reductions. Sen. David G. Berger (D-Mil-

waukee) had said he was "distressed by reports" from Kohl employees that prices "were systematically increased throughout the store to pave the way" for the subsequent, heavily advertised price cutbacks.

Two other supermarket chains, Red Owl and Jewel, have announced similar price reductions on thousands of items.

The state Justice Department has said it is investigating complaints from customers similar to those cited by Berger.

Assistant Attorney General Mark Smith, an official of the Department of Justice Consumer Protection Division, said he would meet with Kohl's officials early next week to discuss the

charges. Smith also said the investigation of the complaints has "expanded into a check on the food merchandising industry as a whole. We'll be looking at the claims being made by other stores as well."

But his staff is limited, he said, to himself and one other employe, in the Department of Agriculture.

He said the investigation was aimed "primarily to see whether the advertising claims in general have been correct."

Kohl said he "welcomes the inquiry," certain it can "exonerate our company."

A spokesman for Jewel said the Chicago-based chain would cooperate with the inquiry

"I think it would have been in the public interest if Sen. Berger had made some inquiries of us before he made public his sweeping allegation, Kohl said.

Berger said he has received a three-paragraph letter from the party chairman, and called it "a brush-off."

The Sentinel said in today's editions it studied Kohl records of retail prices of more than 1,100 items for four weeks prior to April 21, and found only 12 items whose prices had increased since February.

"Why doesn't Mr. Kohl provide me with that data?" Berger said. The senator said he intends to repeat his April 24 request for price information from Kohl.

Christenson Didn't Help Lincoln Mayor

Madison School Board member Douglas Christenson's journey to Lincoln, Nebraska to warn of the "evils" of a liberal-radical government apparently did not impress the voters of that city.

They elected veteran City Council member Helen Boosalis as their new mayor over incumbent Sam Schwartzkopf. Christenson's appearance on television ads was paid for by Schwartzkopf's campaign committee.

Boosalis garnered 54.6 per cent of the vote in Lincoln, beating the incumbent 18,773 to 15,383.

As the campaign drew to a close, she decried Schwartzkopf's "smear tactics" in using Christenson.

One of the points Christenson made during his Lincoln appearance was that crime in Madison had risen under Mayor Paul Soglin's administration. He specifically cited the several bank robberies in the past few months.

Ironically, the same day Lincoln voters picked Boosalis, First Federal Savings and Loan in Madison was robbed.