



Nebraska Report

There is no Peace without Justice

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A Prayer for America

Rep. Dennis Kucinich, Democrat from Ohio, became the first member of Congress to openly repudiate President Bush's war rationale in a speech to the Southern California Americans for Democratic Action February 17. Apart from a handful of others (including Rep. Barbara Lee who was the only member of Congress to vote against the declaration of the "War on Terrorism"), there haven't been many in Washington willing to raise a dissenting voice to the war drumbeat. As the chair of the 58-member Congressional Progressive Caucus, however, and the nominal leader of the caucus's grassroots organizational wing, Progressive Challenge (of which Nebraskans for Peace is a member), Kucinich commands a national following and gives anti-war opponents their first nationally known spokesperson. To give his remarks as wide a hearing as possible, we are reprinting the full text of his speech.

("A Prayer for America" too be sung as an overture for "America")

"My country 'tis of thee. Sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing... From every mountainside, let freedom ring... Long may our land be bright. With freedom's holy light... "Oh say does that star spangled banner yet wave. O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?" "America, America, God shed grace on thee. And crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea..."

I offer these brief remarks today as a prayer for our country, with love of democracy, as a celebration of our country. With love for our country. With hope for our country. With a belief that the light of freedom cannot be extinguished as long as it is inside of us. With a belief that freedom rings resoundingly in a democracy each time we speak freely. With the understanding that freedom stirs the human heart and fear stills it. With the belief that a free people cannot walk in fear and faith at the same time.

With the understanding that there is a deeper truth expressed in the unity of the United States. That implicate in the union of our country is the union of all people. That all people are essentially one. That the world is interconnected not only on the material level of economics, trade, communication, and transportation, but inner-connected through human consciousness, through the human heart, through the heart of the world, through the simply expressed

impulse and yearning to be and to breathe free. I offer this prayer for America.

Let us pray that our nation will remember that the unfolding of the promise of democracy in our nation paralleled the striving for civil rights. That is why we must challenge the rationale of the Patriot Act. We must ask why should America put aside guarantees of constitutional justice?

How can we justify in effect canceling the First Amendment and the right of free speech, the right to peaceably assemble?

How can we justify in effect canceling the Fourth Amendment, probable cause, the prohibitions against unreasonable search and seizure?

How can we justify in effect canceling the Fifth Amendment, nullifying due process, and allowing for indefinite incarceration without a trial?

How can we justify in effect canceling the Sixth Amendment, the right to prompt and public trial?

How can we justify in effect canceling the Eighth Amendment which protects against cruel and unusual punishment?

We cannot justify widespread wiretaps and internet surveillance without judicial supervision, let alone with it. We cannot justify secret searches without a warrant. We cannot justify giving the Attorney General the ability to designate domestic terror groups. We cannot justify giving the FBI total access to any type of data which may exist in any system anywhere such as medical records and financial records.

We cannot justify giving the CIA the ability to target people in this country for intelligence surveillance. We cannot justify a government which takes from the people our right to privacy and then assumes for its own operations a right to total secrecy. The Attorney General recently covered up a statue of Lady Justice showing her bosom as if to underscore there is no danger of justice exposing herself at this time, before this administration.

Let us pray that our nation's leaders will not be overcome with fear. Because today there is great fear in our great Capitol. And this must be understood before we can ask about the shortcomings of Congress in the current environment. The

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Nebraskans for Peace

Nebraskans for Peace is a statewide grassroots advocacy organization working nonviolently for peace with justice through community-building, education and political action.

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Latin America Briefs

compiled by Sarah Disbrow



Move Over Iraq, Venezuela Next in Line for Coup

Several publications in the United States and abroad are warning that the United States is making preparations to help topple the Venezuelan government. In November, the National Security Agency, the Pentagon, and the U.S. State Department met to discuss U.S. policy toward Venezuela. Such a meeting of the three departments usually signals a coup, as it did before coups in Chile, Guatemala, Brazil, and Argentina. The situation in Venezuela feels "as if it could be another Chile 1973," writes Steven Dudley in *The Progressive* (April issue): "The similarities are eerie: A democratically elected left-leaning president in an energy-rich country in Latin America takes the U.S. model head-on; the economy tanks, resistance builds, and a military with an apolitical tradition steps in with the help of the United States."

The U.S. target is Venezuela's president Hugo Chavez and his populist coalition.

Chavez was elected in 1998 with a pledge to lower Venezuela's 80 percent poverty rate. He has set in motion a number of policies that champion the poor but are unpopular with the Bush administration. Among them is a change in Venezuela's long-standing agreement with foreign oil companies. Over the years Venezuela has reaped little in royalties from its own oil and provided large tax breaks to Phillips Petroleum, ExxonMobil, and other oil companies.

Although Venezuela produces \$30 billion in oil a year, 5 out of 10 Venezuelans are malnourished and 8 out of 10 live in poverty. The new law increases the government's royalties on oil production from 16 percent to 30 percent. Chavez has also played an important role in uniting OPEC countries, imposing controls on production, and forging oil ties with Iraq and Iran.

The United States has responded by freezing development loans to Venezuela and accusing the Chavez government of supporting terrorism in Colombia, Bolivia, and Ecuador. In the post-Sept. 11 world, labeling a country a "terrorist state" is a first step toward intervention. Venezuela is the fourth largest oil exporter in the world, and the second largest supplier to the United States.

For more on cooking up a coup in Venezuela, see *The Progressive*, April 2002 issue, and *In These Times*, February issue.

Urgent Action Needed to Stop Emergency Aid to Colombia

President Bush introduced an 'emergency supplemental' to Congress this month in an effort to rush through new military aid to Colombia before the regular foreign aid bill is debated this summer. The emergency bill will effectively change U.S. policy toward Colombia in the next few weeks, leaving little time for debate. It aims to expand U.S. involvement in Colombia's civil war by allowing aid to be used by government forces against the revolutionary forces rather than for anti-drug measures only.

The "fast-track" bill specifically gives \$25 million more aid to the military and police for anti-kidnapping work, \$4 million to reinforce police posts in Colombia, and \$6 million to start training a new military battalion in the northeastern state of Arauca to guard a pipeline owned by US oil company Occidental Petroleum. An additional \$98 million to guard the pipeline is proposed in the regular foreign aid bill.

By helping the Colombian military combat revolutionaries in the long-standing civil war, the U.S. is turning a blind eye to the military's own notorious collusion with paramilitary terrorists. Rep. Jim McGovern (D-MA) is circulating a letter to the President for members of Congress to sign saying that they do not want an expansion of military aid to Colombia. Urge your representative to sign the letter. To find out whom to contact in your state, see www.senate.gov/senators/senator_by_state.cfm for your senators, and www.house.gov/writerep for your representatives, or call the congressional switchboard at 202-224-3121.

Rep. Tom Osborne Working to Improve U.S.-Cuba Relations

A group of 17 Republicans and 17 Democrats has formed in the House of Representatives to work toward lifting the Cuban embargo. Rep. Tom Osborne is the only Nebraska representative to join the group so far. Believing that the embargo is a 40-year-old failure, members of the group have taken a stand against the Bush administration's attempts to further isolate Cuba. The group hopes to loosen the embargo step by step, eventually removing all restrictions on the sale of food and medicine to Cuba and on travel to Cuba.

TIRED FOR PAYING FOR THE "WAR ON TERRORISM"?

Contributions to the Nebraska Peace Foundation are tax-deductible.

great fear began when we had to evacuate the Capitol on September 11. It continued when we had to leave the Capitol again when a bomb scare occurred as members were pressing the CIA during a secret briefing. It continued when we abandoned Washington when anthrax, possibly from a government lab, arrived in the mail. It continued when the Attorney General declared a nationwide terror alert and then the Administration brought the destructive Patriot Bill to the floor of the House. It continued in the release of the bin Laden tapes at the same time the President was announcing the withdrawal from the ABM treaty. It remains present in the cordoning off of the Capitol. It is present in the camouflaged-armed national guardsmen who greet members of Congress each day we enter the Capitol campus. It is present in the labyrinth of concrete barriers through which we must pass each time we go to vote. The trappings of a state of siege trap us in a state of fear, ill equipped to deal with the Patriot Games, the Mind Games, the War Games of an unelected President and his unelected Vice President.

Let us pray that our country will stop this war. "To promote the common defense" is one of the formational principles of America. Our Congress gave the President the ability to respond to the tragedy of September the Eleventh. We licensed a response to those who helped bring the terror of September the Eleventh. But we the people and our elected representatives must reserve the right to measure the response, to proportion the response, to challenge the response, and to correct the response.

- Because we did not authorize the invasion of Iraq.
- We did not authorize the invasion of Iran.
- We did not authorize the invasion of North Korea.
- We did not authorize the bombing of civilians in Afghanistan.
- We did not authorize permanent detainees in Guantanamo Bay.
- We did not authorize the withdrawal from the Geneva Convention.
- We did not authorize military tribunals suspending due process and habeas corpus.
- We did not authorize assassination squads.
- We did not authorize the resurrection of COINTELPRO.
- We did not authorize the repeal of the Bill of Rights.
- We did not authorize the revocation of the Constitution.
- We did not authorize national identity cards.
- We did not authorize the eye of Big Brother to peer from cameras throughout our cities.
- We did not authorize an eye for an eye.
- Nor did we ask that the blood of innocent people, who perished on September 11, be avenged with the blood of innocent villagers in Afghanistan.
- We did not authorize the administration to wage war anytime, anywhere, anyhow it pleases.
- We did not authorize war without end.
- We did not authorize a permanent war economy.

Yet we are upon the threshold of a permanent war economy. The President has requested a \$45.6 billion increase in military spending. All defense-related programs will cost close to \$400 billion. Consider that the Department of Defense has never passed an independent audit. Consider that the Inspector General has notified Congress that the Pentagon cannot properly account for \$1.2 trillion in transactions. Consider that in recent years the Dept. of Defense could not match \$22 billion worth of expenditures to the items it purchased, wrote off, as lost, billions of dollars-worth of in-transit inventory and stored nearly \$30 billion-worth of spare parts it did not need.

Yet the defense budget grows with more money for weapons systems to fight a Cold War which ended, weapons systems in search of new enemies to create new wars. This has nothing to do with fighting terror. This has everything to do with fueling a military-industrial machine with the treasure of our nation, risking the future of our nation, risking democracy itself with the militarization of thought which follows the militarization of the budget.

Let us pray for our children. Our children deserve a world without end. Not a war without end. Our children deserve a world free of the terror of hunger, free of the terror of poor health care, free of the terror of homelessness, free of the terror of ignorance, free of the terror of hopelessness, free of the terror of policies which are committed to a world view which is not appropriate for the survival of a free people, not appropriate for the survival of democratic values,



not appropriate for the survival of our nation, and not appropriate for the survival of the world.

Let us pray that we have the courage and the will as a people and as a nation to shore ourselves up, to reclaim from the ruins of September the Eleventh our democratic traditions. Let us declare our love for democracy. Let us declare our intent for peace. Let us work to make nonviolence an organizing principle in our own society. Let us recommit ourselves to the slow and painstaking work of statecraft, which sees peace, not war as being inevitable. Let us work for a world where someday war becomes archaic. That is the vision which the proposal to create a Department of Peace envisions. Forty-three members of Congress are now cosponsoring the legislation. Let us work for a world where nuclear disarmament is an imperative. That is why we must begin by insisting on the commitments of the ABM treaty. That is why we must be steadfast for nonproliferation.

Let us work for a world where America can lead the way in banning weapons of mass destruction not only from our land and sea and sky but from outer space itself. That is the vision of HR 3616: A universe free of fear. Where we can look up at God's creation in the stars and imagine infinite wisdom, infinite peace, infinite possibilities, not infinite war, because we are taught that the kingdom will come on earth as it is in heaven.

Let us pray that we have the courage to replace the images of death which haunt us, the layers of images of September the Eleventh, faded into images of patriotism, spliced into images of military mobilization, jump cut into images of our secular celebrations of the World Series, New Year's Eve, the Superbowl, the Olympics, the strobic flashes which touch our deepest fears, let us replace those images with the work of human relations, reaching out to people, helping our own citizens here at home, lifting the plight of the poor everywhere. That is the America which has the ability to rally the support of the world. That is the America which stands not in pursuit of an axis of evil, but which is itself at the axis of hope and faith and peace and freedom.

America, America. God shed grace on thee. Crown thy good, America. Not with weapons of mass destruction. Not with invocations of an axis of evil. Not through breaking international treaties. Not through establishing America as king of a unipolar world. Crown thy good America.

America, America. Let us pray for our country. Let us love our country. Let us defend our country not only from the threats without but from the threats within. Crown thy good, America. Crown thy good with brotherhood, and sisterhood. And crown thy good with compassion and restraint and forbearance and a commitment to peace, to democracy, to economic justice here at home and throughout the world. Crown thy good, America. Crown thy good, America. Crown thy good. Thank you.



Speaking Our Peace

by NFP President Carol McShane

The speech below was delivered at the March 11 anti-war rally held at the Nebraska State Capitol on the six-month anniversary of the World Trade Center and Pentagon terrorist attacks.

Good Afternoon. I am Carol McShane. I am honored to be president of Nebraskans for Peace. I am happy to see you here today. You help us prove that we will not go away nor will our anti-war message be whispered.

At the Annual Conference of Nebraskans for Peace this February we were honored to have nationally known and respected peace teacher Colman McCarthy speak to us about nonviolence, about teaching peace, and about optimism. The attendance at that meeting was double the usual number and attendees donated two-and-a-half times as much money as we usually raise. There is an interest in peace in Nebraska. There is support for an agenda of nonviolence.

Today we look back on the last six months. What have we done?

- We have killed a lot of people.
- We have bombed and bombed and bombed.
- We have destroyed homes.
- We have destroyed roads that might have been used to bring food to a hungry, cold people.
- We have lost track of Osama bin Laden.

• We have routed the Taliban and replaced them with warlords who are unreliable, violent, and power-crazed.

But are we safer? Have we reduced the danger, the likelihood of terrorist attack in the United States or anywhere?

No, no we have not.

President Bush wants us to know that we are not safer. He has too many of us worshipping at the altar of fear. This, in and of itself, is terrorism. Noam Chomsky writes that the term “terrorism” is actually defined in official U.S. documents as “the calculated use of violence or threat of violence to attain goals that are political, religious, or ideological in nature. This is done through intimidation, coercion, or instilling fear.”

• In the name of fear—fear generated by this war machine, this president—we are

told that we must “take out” Saddam Hussein and destroy the “Evil Axis” nations of Iran, Iraq and North Korea.”

• At this altar of fear, we are sacrificing civil liberties in the U.S. and human decency in Afghanistan and Pakistan where thousands of people flee to primitive camps to escape our bombs.

• At this altar of fear we are threatening to use nuclear weaponry—the ultimate suicide bomb.

You and I know that ignorance generates violence, that poverty generates violence, that being disenfranchised generates violence. We also know that fear generates violence.

Sorrowfully, I think that the president and his warlords know this too, that if they repeatedly tell us that we are not safe, we will feel not safe, we will live in fear. And that fear will generate—and, in this case, appear to justify—the violence that is perceived by President Bush and his warlords to bring safety and, I guess, greatness.

NFP will have none of it. Where will it all end?

Please note three things in today’s *Lincoln Journal Star* (March 11, 2002)

First, the *Washington Post-ABC* Poll

- 91 percent support the war.
- 74 percent reject the suggestion that this war will be inconclusive and harmful as the Vietnam War.
- 80 percent say the worst is yet to come.
- 54 percent say it’s okay to lose more American lives to kill and capture Osama bin Laden.

• 82 percent give President Bush a good rating.

But...

• Of the 91 percent who support the Afghan war, only 69 percent indicate “strong support—down from 79 percent in November.

• And in this poll of March 2002, 24 percent say the war is going well—down from 42 percent in November.

These last numbers are significant. They are the inside story, the part of the story that begins to show a shift. Watch them.

Also in today’s paper, *Journal Star* reporter Don Walton reflects in his column on the recent Gallup Poll, in which 10,000

Muslims in nine countries were surveyed. The results show, as Walton notes, that even our friends in the Arab world don’t like us. Sixty-seven percent say our airstrikes in Afghanistan were unjustified. Only 12 percent think the West respects Arab and Islamic values.

Terrorism will not end with Afghanistan, nor will it end if we go into Iraq or Iran or North Korea, for that matter. So, we must conclude that each mighty blow from the U.S.—the big power—legitimizes more rock throwing, more suicide attacks by those who perceive themselves to be otherwise powerless. Walton offers the Israeli-Palestinian situation as evidence that a similar outcome can be expected in other areas where the stronger power continues to respond to violence by escalating violence.

The third thing in today’s paper is the political cartoon, showing Ariel Sharon with his arm around Yasser Arafat saying “Peace” as they stand in the center of many, many bodies. I note that these fallen ones are wearing neither yarmulke nor turban nor kefiyah. I guess after you’re dead it doesn’t matter what you wear on your head. Left unsaid is the obvious question: wasn’t— isn’t—peace possible long before the circle of dead surrounds you?

Does NFP take back what we said soon after September 11 and in every public statement since? No, flat no. The challenge to bring peace is only more difficult now than it was six months ago; the pile of bodies is deeper. But we of NFP will persist. We listen for strong voices to lead us, to direct us.

We must continue to hear M.K. Gandhi’s grandson, Arun Gandhi, who says this to us: “*We must understand that nonviolence is not a strategy that we can use in times of peace and discard in a moment of crisis.*”

Lesson: We cannot say no to school violence and no to inner city violence, and then, in a 9/11 moment, say a resounding “yes” to intercultural violence.

We must hear Colman McCarthy’s words: “*Every problem we have, every conflict, whether among our family or friends or among governments, will be addressed either through violent force or nonviolent force. No third option exists. I believe in nonviolent force—the force of justice, the force of love, the force of sharing wealth, the force of ideas, the force*

of organized resistance to corrupt power. Fighting with those kinds of forces is the essence of nonviolence.”

Lesson: We have opportunities every day to practice nonviolence. Each of knows that violence always presents as an easy option. You barely have to make an excuse to be violent, or to go to war, as the case may be.

Take to heart Noam Chomsky’s response when he was asked to give an historic example of an empire, state or superpower that dealt with the rest of the world and its citizens having in mind human values, he answered: “*States are not moral agents. They are systems of power, which respond to the internal distribution of power. Human beings, however, are moral agents, and can impose significant constraints on the violence of their own states, particularly in societies that are more free.*”

Lesson: We are the ones, we in a society that is “more free,” we can and must “impose significant constraints” on violence. We will try.

And admire the courage of Montana Congresswoman Jeannette Rankin. In 1916, her brother, who was her campaign manager, urged her to cast a “man’s vote” in favor of entering World War I. He later said he knew she couldn’t be reelected if she voted against the war. Jeannette Rankin’s response: “*Never for one second could I face the idea that I would send young men to be killed for no other reason than to save my seat in Congress.*” She did lose her seat, but she won it again, only to lose it a second time after voting ‘no’ to entry into World War II. She studied with Gandhi and was never dissuaded from her position. In fact, she marched in step with civil rights champions in the 1960s.

Lesson to our senators and congress people: Be not afraid.

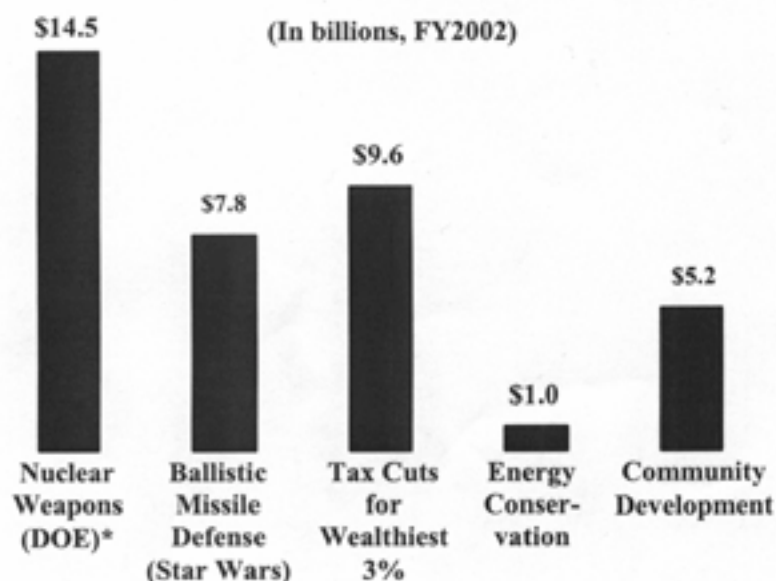
Lesson to us: Don’t be afraid to ask courage of each other and our elected officials. Lincoln City Councilman Terry Werner showed us that the answer can be ‘yes.’

And finally, hear M.K. Gandhi himself, whose message we need today: “*When in despair I remember that all through history the way of truth and love has always won; there have been tyrants and murderers, and for a time they can seem invincible, but in the end they always fall.*”

Thank you.

Federal Tax and Spending Priorities in 2002

Does the 'War on Terrorism' Justify These Priorities?



While most people agree that fighting terrorism and restoring our economy are top priorities, current federal spending policies fail to get us closer to these goals. Spending on nuclear weapons and ballistic missile defense (Star Wars) does not address the threat of terrorism, yet these programs are costing taxpayers over \$20 billion. Cutting taxes for the wealthiest 3%, at a cost of almost \$10 billion, does not create jobs nor provide economic relief for low and middle-income people. At the same time, programs that would benefit all Americans or help people in need receive comparatively little.

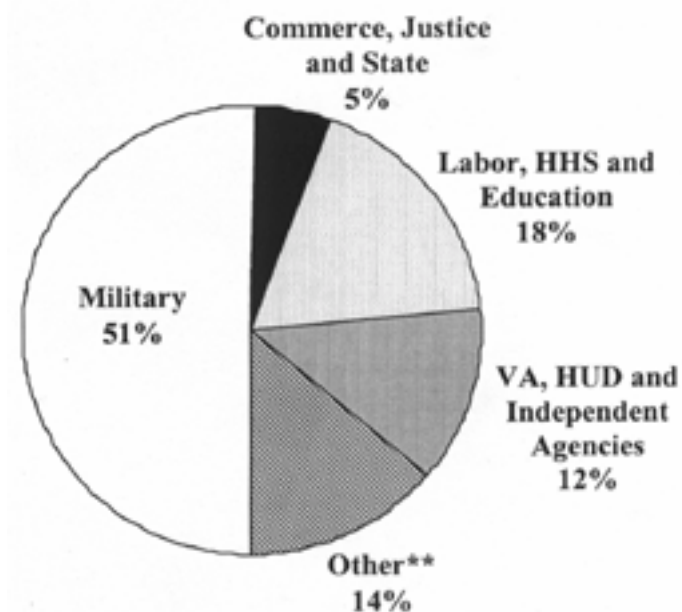
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Fiscal Year 2002 Discretionary Spending

The pie chart shows discretionary spending for fiscal year 2002 which runs from October 1, 2001 to September 30, 2002. Discretionary spending refers to the part of the federal budget that Congress decides every year. Entitlement programs such as Social Security and Food Stamps are nondiscretionary; Congress can restrict or expand access or eligibility, but cannot directly determine the level of spending. Military spending consumes about half of discretionary spending while education takes up only about 7%. Discretionary spending makes up about 35% of the total federal budget.



*This figure only includes spending in the Department of Energy. **'Other' includes Agriculture, DC, non-military Energy and Water, Foreign Operations, Interior, Legislative Branch, Transportation, Treasury and General Government, emergency spending on Homeland Defense and recovery of the affected communities. **Other notes:** Budget information is drawn from appropriation bill conference reports, House Budget Committee appropriations updates and the Budget of the US Government, FY2002. Tax cuts for the top 3% is based on an estimation by the Joint Committee on Taxation and represents the benefits from the tax cut package that will be gained in 2002 by those whose incomes is over \$200,000 (2.7% of all returns).

UN Peacekeeping Forces Urged to Intervene in Israel and Palestinian Conflict

With the death toll in Israel and the Palestinian Territories rising daily and an end to the carnage nowhere in sight, Nebraskans for Peace and the United Nations Association Chapter 100 collaborated to issue the following news release on April 4.

Unfortunately, the Nebraska media once again chose to completely ignore our statement, just as they had this past February when we denounced the Bush Administration's threat to unilaterally "take out" Saddam Hussein. Despite the media blackout, we believe the plan outlined below represents the best option for de-escalating the state of war now engulfing Israelis and Palestinians.

A large United Nations peacekeeping force should immediately be sent to Israel and the Palestinian Territories to stop the fighting and restore order, two Nebraska organizations said Thursday.

In a jointly sponsored news release Nebraskans for Peace and the United Nations Association Chapter 100 stated that only a very large—and neutral—international force has any chance of de-escalating the conflict now taking place in the Mideast.

"Let's face it. Given our government's long-standing support for Israel, the United States is not going to be regarded as an objective voice in any negotiations with the Palestinians. Besides, the U.S. lacks the political will to deploy the hundreds of

thousands of peacekeepers that will be needed to intervene there for years to come," Carl Schmitthausler, President of UNA-Chapter 100 said. "One incident like the bombing of the barracks in Beirut, and Americans would be clamoring to bring our troops home," he added. On the other, he said, U.N. peacekeeping operations have a long history and solid record of effective intervention.

Carol McShane, President of Nebraskans for Peace, said her organization supports the Arab League's plan for Israeli withdrawal to the 1948 partition boundaries—and Palestinian statehood—in exchange for political recognition of Israel by the Arab world. "What we have to

remember, though, is that there are elements on both sides that do not want peace and will not settle for anything less than total annihilation of the other. We're not going to get suicide bombers and fervent Israeli settlers to sit down at the negotiating table and talk things out. It's just not going to happen," she stated.

If the world community is serious about resolving this conflict, McShane said, a long-term commitment of personnel and funding is inevitable. "I wish there was a quick fix to this tragedy, but the reality is that change may take at least a generation. A conflict that was generations in the making will probably take at least a generation to resolve."

Why Are We Paying for This War?

by Rev. Steve Ratzlaff
First Mennonite Church of Lincoln

Somewhere on the way to war this nation lost its soul. Some people would like to say that it was a subtle change from a peaceable nation to one that puts its trust in military might and weaponry. And perhaps that is true... perhaps this country was once a kinder and gentler nation. But history shows that the U.S. has always had a violent side... has always had a love affair with guns... has always run roughshod over anyone who got in the way, whether it was the Native Americans in our own country or nations who control the precious resources needed to maintain our lifestyle. Whether it was a subtle change or not, America has flatly placed itself at the altar of the military idol today. We have pinned our hopes on weapons and arms even though we couch that idolatry in religious terms. We have decided that the problems we have, whether they are with terrorists or about Middle East oil, will be best handled by cruise missiles and daisy cutter bombs. We spend nearly half of our budget each year on this military idol while our schools, roads, social security system and health systems continue to deteriorate. We have lost our way... we have lost our soul as a nation... we have sold out to the military-industrial complex.

But the clock is ticking for this country, the world's only superpower, who has claimed

the moral high ground in this war on terrorism but has seemingly lost its soul in the process. The Bush Administration has, like so many administrations before it, staked its life on this form of idolatry, this fascination with military might, with the belief that might makes right... the belief that we have the ability and the right to do as we wish when it comes to rooting out terrorism. And they have asked us, the citizens of this country, to support them in that task. They have asked us for billions of dollars to enable them to carry out this misguided war. In addition to the \$320 billion already budgeted for defense in this country for 2002, President Bush has asked for \$48 billion more for the war on terrorism and homeland security—pushing the defense budget to an obscene \$370 billion. The President is asking us to accept this request for a department which has not been able to account for nearly \$2.3 trillion. Yes, you heard me correctly. “According to some estimates we cannot track \$2.3 trillion in transactions,” Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld admitted in a September 10 news conference, the day before terrorists leveled the World Trade Center towers. That’s nearly \$8000 for every person in this country. And while they still complain and moan about how women and children on welfare are bilking the taxpayer, this government, this Department of Defense, still has the guts to ask us for \$48

billion more to fund its adventures against terrorism. More money for the Pentagon while its own auditors can’t account for nearly 25 percent of what it spends. Retired Vice Admiral Jack Shanahan has said, “With good financial oversight we could find \$48 billion in loose change in that building, without having to hit the taxpayers.” This is an administration, a defense department, that has lost control of its ability to function properly as well as its focus. They continue to build idols of military might while our schools, roads, social security system and health systems deteriorate. In its pursuit of military idols, of military conquest, this government has lost its soul.

Yes, the clock is ticking for a nation that has placed itself firmly at the foot of the military idol. It will become our Achilles Heel, our demise. If we truly are to change direction, it will take consistent efforts on each of our parts to stop this war. We need to refuse to pay for it... we need to resist war taxes. The only thing that can stop the military juggernaut is to cut off the cash flow that feeds it. The military depends on tax dollars. John Steen, in a little pamphlet called “Death and Taxes,” said this during the Vietnam War:

“If you were handed a gun, right now, and told to shoot a man—or drop napalm on a village—you couldn’t do it... But the same good people who would vomit at the sight of burning flesh and blood on our hands have no

qualms paying taxes for somebody else to kill and burn. If we are forced to face the issues, we make excuses... The managers of the Empire will let us speak - as long as we hand over the young men and the cash. And we are afraid to refuse... The government could never get away with murder—in Vietnam or any place—without help. The War Machine must be fed warm bodies and cold cash by the millions.”

Refusing to pay for war is the one place we can say NO to the military obsession in this country. It is also a way to stand in solidarity with the victims of U.S. military might throughout the world who suffer because our tax dollars are used for bombs. People who are opposed to this war need to put their money where their mouths are and refuse to pay for it. Without money, this war cannot be fought.

We must call our leaders to a different course, a course with long-term goals and objectives... goals and objectives that root out the causes of terrorism, poverty, religious fundamentalism, injustice and oppression and greed. It will take a continuous witness... a commitment to stop violence and victimization... a commitment that leads to reconciliation and cooperation rather than unilateral action. We cannot lose heart... too many people are depending on us.

National Priorities Project 2002 State of the States: Nebraska

Economic recession and the horrors of September 11 have left Americans reeling. Federal and state decision-makers confront multiple fiscal challenges: shrinking tax revenues, increased demand for various public supports and services, new costs for heightened security measures. All across the country, individuals who thought their economic futures secure have had that sense of security shattered. The level of human need, already great, only promises to grow larger. On tax and spending policies, the federal government’s primary response to these challenging times has been two-fold: cut taxes for the wealthy and corporations and increase military spending, primarily for weapons that fail to protect against terrorism. People in need are largely going without.

People in Nebraska are in need.



Poverty rate.....	10%
Child poverty rate.....	11%
People without health insurance.....	10%
Children without health insurance.....	8%
Tenants paying more than 30% of income in rent.....	33%

People in Nebraska find it hard to pay the bills.



	Hourly:	Annual:
Minimum wage.....	\$5.15	\$10,712
Living wage for a family of three.....	\$14.57	\$30,304
Average Temporary Assistance for Needy Families benefit.. (TANF)	—	\$3,892

In Nebraska, the unemployment rate grew from 2.8% to 3.4% over the last year, making jobs scarcer and earning a living wage harder. Nationally, one-third of unemployed are ineligible for unemployment compensation and public cash assistance does little to relieve the burden in our state. This data was provided to Nebraskans for Peace by the National Priorities Project: www.nationalpriorities.org

Sources and notes: Poverty rates and housing affordability is Census 2000 data. Health insurance data is from the Current Population Survey and is a moving average for 1998-2000. Unemployment rates are from the Bureau of Labor Statistics and show December 2000 and December 2001. Minimum wage rates by state are available from the Department of Labor (current as of July, 2001). Living wage data has been inflation-adjusted from the NPP report ‘Working hard, earning less’. Average TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) benefit is for 1999 and is from the Administration for Children and Families.

Pre-sentence Statement of Rev. Frank Cordaro Before U.S. Magistrate Judge Jaudzemis

Fr. Frank Cordaro of Des Moines, Iowa was arrested for crossing the line at Stratcom at Offutt Air Force Base on the "Feast of the Holy Innocents" December 28, 2001. He was sentenced on March 6 to six months in jail, and spent one week in Pottawattamie County Jail before being sent to the for-profit Correctional Corporation of America, Inc. facility in Leavenworth, Kansas.

First, I want to thank the court for postponing these proceedings until after I recovered from my heart attack.

I want the court to know that given the damage caused by the heart attack I suffered last September, I have recovered as well as could be expected. My doctors tell me (and they have informed the court) that I am healthy enough to survive any jail time that might come from this court appearance, as long as I continue to take the prescribed necessary medications and avoid strenuous manual labor.

People have asked why I choose to plead "no contest" in this case. They wonder, "is there no legal defense for your line-crossing at Offutt Air Force Base?" There are indeed sound legal defenses for the action we took at Offutt on August 9, 2001.

These legitimate legal defenses come from the growing body of international law. Law that I'm certain supports nonviolent nuclear war protesting. Here are just a few examples of the many treaties, tribunals and conventions—to which the U.S. is bound—that outlaw the use or threat to use weapons of mass destruction:

The Geneva Convention of 1925 which prohibits the use in war of poisonous weapons; The Geneva Convention of 1949 which makes it illegal to target civilians; The Nuremberg Charter which outlaws "Crimes Against Peace, War Crimes and Crimes Against Humanity"; The International Court of Justice ruling on The Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons, July 8, 1996 which states, "There is in neither customary nor conventional international law any specific authorization of the threat or use of nuclear weapons..."

The problem is, in federal courts in the United States—including yours—such defenses are not allowed. My guess is that you would rule that in this case I'm not even entitled to any defense that shows my actions were justified because of the legal status of nuclear weapons and StratCom's part in the threat to use them.

Faced with the unwillingness or inability of the court to allow any real defense, I stipulate to the fact that I crossed the line at Offutt Air Force base, the headquarters of StratCom, our nation's strategic nuclear weapons operational command, last August

9. And yes, I did this in violation of previous ban and bar letters from Offutt Air Force base. And God willing if my health holds out, I will do it again.

But that is only half of the truth, it's not the whole truth...

Since 9/11 this country has gone to war against the country of Afghanistan, one of the poorest nations in the world, a people who have known nothing but war, killing and poverty over the last 20 years... Since 9/11 our nation's priorities have been distorted even more than they were prior to 9/11 (which



Fr. Frank Cordaro at his March 6 sentencing hearing in Omaha

is no small feat) with the Pentagon and war-makers getting everything on their wish list with a price tag of over 400 billion dollars a year in tax money. Meanwhile, basic human needs like health care, education, transportation and social services go unmet. All this, while the government goes deeper and deeper in debt.

The new hype of home security has brought with it an erosion of our

treasured civil liberties and legal rights and protections. All of this in the name of preserving our freedoms in this so-called "War on Terrorism."

It has been said that the first casualty of any war is the truth. In my 51-year lifetime, our government and national leaders have lied to us during every war or foreign military intervention that this country has undertaken. This certainly rings true in this so-called war on terrorism.

A lifetime of lies and false national mythologies has taught me not to trust anything our president, elected officials, military leaders

and media talking heads have to say about our nation's military adventurism.

How should we Americans see the tragic, God-awful events of 9/11, when death and destruction and, yes, evil, visited New York City, Washington, D.C. and Pennsylvania?

For my point of reference and the context to reading the events of 9/11, a day of human and national tragedy, I go to the voices of two black American men from the 1960s, both of them advocates in their people's struggles for freedom and justice, both of them gunned down by the same violence they confronted throughout their lives: one a pacifist, the other not.

It was Martin Luther King who said in 1968, when he was speaking out against the Vietnam War that, "The United States is the greatest purveyor of violence in the world." This statement was true in 1968. Its even truer now.

And Malcolm X said of America after the assassination of President John F Kennedy in November of 1963, "The Chickens have come home to 'roost.'" In biblical terms Malcolm X was trying to tell us that we reap what we sow...

President Bush keeps telling the American people that in this war on terrorism we are fighting evil nations and evil people. How blind our president is! We need to take the plank out of own eye before we seek to take the speck out of neighbor's eye. Evil is what evil does and in this regard in the past century, we wrote the book on killing innocent people in so-called "collateral damage" for just causes...

As a Catholic priest I am mortified and ashamed by my Church's almost complete cooperation and blind support for the mission and work of StratCom. Whatever punishment you deem to give me today, I gladly take on upon myself for the sin of my Faith Community and for the conversion my Church must go through to repent its pro-war, pro-bomb ways and instead better proclaim and embrace the nonviolent loving resistance spirit of Jesus in whom we say we believe.

I also look for the day when some federal judge in some federal court in this land of ours joins nonviolent peacemakers in not only recognizing the immorality of these weapons of mass destruction but also see them as criminal devices in criminal hands that pose a threat to all human life.

I wish to inform the court from this point on, I will not cooperate with any kind of probation, nor will I pay any kind of fine, nor do any kind of community service as might be connected with any sentence you choose to give me...

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"The Glow Is Mostly Gone from Globalization" blared the Omaha World-Herald headline about last month's United Nations Summit on Poverty in Monterrey, Mexico. What Nebraskans for Peace and other globalization critics have been saying for a decade suddenly appears to have become common knowledge among most of the world's leaders (for those outside of the U.S. anyway). According to the New York Times-syndicated article in the March 22 Omaha World-Herald, "many now agree that the force they once saw as a near panacea—globalization—has come up short. Globalization, or the fast growth of trade and cross-border investment, has done far less to raise the incomes of the world's poorest than the leaders had hoped... The vast majority of people in Africa, Latin America, Central Asia and the Middle East are no better off today than they were in 1989, when the fall of the Berlin Wall allowed capitalism to spread worldwide at a rapid rate." In fact, the only country "aside from China" to have "benefited unambiguously" from globalization, the Times article asserted, is the United States.

Even the connection between poverty and terrorism appears to have become accepted truth for much of the world. An accompanying Associated Press story about the

Monterrey summit in the same March 22 edition carried the headline, "Poverty Called Terror-Breeder." "World leaders... speaking to presidents and prime ministers from six continents... called on rich nations to increase aid to the world's poorest, saying the developing world otherwise would become a breeding ground for terrorists."

Far from ushering in an age of international prosperity, globalization has dangerously widened the gap between the 'haves' and 'have-nots.' Not even the U.S. can be said to have "unambiguously" benefited, as the recent raft of Nebraska plant closings and job losses to cheaper labor markets testifies. But while virtually everyone the world over has suffered from the globalization fad, no one, as UNL Anthropology Professor Robert Hitchcock explains in the following article, has suffered as much as the world's children.

His article, which we are grateful for the opportunity to publish, was originally presented in January at the WorldLink Fifth Regional Youth Town Meeting on Global Affairs Conference, "Who Will Open the Cages? Extreme Child Labor, Trafficking of Human Beings," at the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice, University of San Diego, San Diego, California.

Globalization, Child Labor, and Children's Rights

*by Robert Hitchcock
UNL Professor of Anthropology*

Children are on the front line in the world's conflicts, environmental hot spots, and places where multinational corporations are operating as part of the international process of globalization. All too frequently, children are abused and victimized by many people, including their own parents, non-kin, governments, multinationals, and even non-government organizations. A large proportion of the world's refugees are children. Children are involved heavily in some of the world's worst civil wars, as can be seen, for example, in Sierra Leone and Liberia. In the 16-year-long civil war in Mozambique, at least 10,000 children served as soldiers, and 200,000 children were orphaned or abandoned by adults. Nearly half a million died from war-related causes.

One can see the ravages of child exploitation in the case of child labor in industries in south and southeast Asia, perhaps the best example of which is the carpet industry. It is enlightening to read the book *Free the Children* by Craig Kielburger, a Canadian youngster who championed the cause of Iqbal Masih, a freed Pakistani child laborer and human rights activist who received the Reebok Youth in Action Award. Iqbal was a victim of debt bondage, which was the result of loans taken out by his family. Like many other children, he had to work to pay off the loans to his family. On Easter Sunday,

April 16, 1995, Iqbal was struck down by an assassin's shotgun blast. He did not die in vain: as one journalist put it, a thousand Iqbals were born. Iqbal Masih and Craig Kielburger and other child activists have done a great deal to bring attention to the issues of extreme child labor and trafficking in children for various purposes, including sexual slavery.

Children are exposed to structural violence. Poverty, hunger, and exploitation are part of the structure of the world's socio-economic system today. Poverty is the biggest killer of children. According to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and Bread for the World's Institute on Hunger and Development, 40,000 per children per day are dying as a result of poverty, malnutrition, and disease. One quarter of the world's people live in absolute poverty; they struggle to survive on less than a dollar a day. Seventy percent of the people in the world who are absolutely poor are women and children.

In the United States, the fastest growing group of homeless people consists of women and their children. In Latin America, Asia, and Africa, child-headed households (CHHs)—some the result of the scourge of HIV/AIDS—are living on the streets and attempting to make a living in any way that they can. The trash dumps of Africa, the Middle East, Latin America, and Asia, and, in

Some Movement with TOTV

by Paul A. Olson, Convener
"Turn Off the Violence" Project

Finally, the Turn Off the Violence project has some good news to report. Since its inception in the Summer of 2000, TOTV has involved many schools and churches, the New Covenant Peace and Justice Center in Omaha, and many, many private individuals have done a lot in their own areas of interest. We have had conferences and meetings that have been productive. We have put the issue of the failure of our culture to provide significant alternatives to violence as a way of solving problems on the agenda in Nebraska—in our critiques of the media, in our examination of school and church practices in teaching and in our legislative efforts. But we have not had an occasion when we could say that we have had an effect on policy or on the culture of violence in Nebraska in general.

We can now say that we are beginning to have such an effect in two areas: school policy on bullying and violence and the practice of the churches and religions with regard to teaching about violence. This is not to claim exclusive credit. Many organizations and people have had a hand.

School Policy on Violence

As was the case last year, we again failed with a gun lock bill (LB1083,) largely because the gun lobby controls the legislature and no serious debate in that arena has taken place yet. However, we had a success of sorts with LB 1082, the anti-bullying bill. The bill required that every school develop a serious anti-bullying, anti-violence policy that would be created by teachers, administrators and community people and updated annually. When LB 1082 was proposed by Sen. Dave Landis (and he and Laurel Marsh, his legislative aide, deserve a lot of credit for proposing and following through on anti-violence legislation again), the Nebraska State Board of Education was somewhat distressed that the legislature was infringing on a school policy area. The board debated whether it wished to support, oppose or remain neutral on the bill. Eventually, the Board decided that it wished to remain neutral on the bill, *but that it would undertake to implement the concepts contained in the bill by rule rather than statute.* This decision was in turn communicated to the legislature's Education Committee.

A variety of people, including those working with Turn Off the Violence project, senators and staff of the Education Committee as well as members of the State Board of Education themselves, were helpful in assisting the Board to reach this opinion. In return for the State Board's offer, Sen. Ron Raikes has written to the State Board and the

leadership of the Department of Education indicating his pleasure in the Board's decision and his (and Sen. Landis's) desire to offer "whatever assistance our offices might provide" in getting a full-fledged anti-bullying policy implemented in this state. Sen. Raikes also asked that the Education Committee "be kept apprised of additional actions the Board takes to implement the rule and progress toward achieving the goals stated in LB1082." In short, the State Board of Education has undertaken to implement the concepts set forth in LB1082 by rule rather than statute, and the Chair of the Education Committee has indicated that the committee will try to provide

such a policy. Copy your letter to Paul Olson at 2535 A Street, Lincoln, NE 68502 and to Senator Landis's office at the Capitol Building, Lincoln, NE 68509 (or if you wish to e-mail Paul Olson a copy, send it to polson@unlserve.unl.edu). You will find the addresses of the State Board of Education in the adjacent box. Please write to all members, not just to your representatives. This is a conscientious group that needs to be encouraged amid the welter of its many duties.

I hope that you will periodically write to this group to encourage it to develop a strong policy and see it to full implementation. The Nebraska Department of Education also

foster a less turbulent climate. You can also help, if you have a local "after-school program" sponsored by the your school (a "21st Century Learning Center"), make certain that anti-violence programming is included in the work of such centers. The federal enabling legislation makes such programming a priority.

Churches & Religious Organizations

The second area where we may be beginning to have an effect is in the churches and religious organizations. The Quakers, Mennonites, Church of the Brethren, Buddhists and Bahais have always had such formation at the center of their work. However, with the large number of Nobel Prize winners who have recently called for a decade of educating youth toward nonviolence, the UN endorsement of this call, and national church sponsorship of this thrust in education in many denominations, we are beginning to have action. Sr. Maureen Connolly is offering "From Violence to Wholeness" workshops at regular intervals sponsored by the New Covenant Center. Marge Schlitt, a Friends "Alternative to Violence" trainer, is developing workshops in that program. Carol Windrum has been working on this issue with the United Methodists for some time, and we are beginning to have some ELCA Lutheran action.

This fall on September 19-20, Professor Martin Marty of the *Christian Century* will deliver addresses at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, Nebraska Wesleyan University and Southwood Lutheran Church. He will talk about the effects and prospects of the Nobel Prize-winners' call both nationally and worldwide and the efforts to educate for nonviolence through the instrumentalities of the religious community. Professor Marty's talk will be followed by training sessions for pastors, religious workers, parents and youth, introducing them to the disciplines of nonviolence available to their particular faith-based group. This should begin a renewal of the movement toward nonviolence commitments in the churches and religions of Nebraska that will recall us to the peacemaking traditions created for us by the Mennonites, Brethren and Quakers; by William Jennings Bryan, U.S. Sen. George Norris and Abraham Muste; and by Nebraskans for Peace founders like Dwight Dell, Merle Hansen, Arlo Hoppe, Don Reeves, Rowena Boykin and many others. Perhaps a new day is beginning. (If you are interested in the Marty lectures and related workshops, write Sharon Shields by email at the following address: sharon_shields@ecunet.org)

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assistance and encouragement to this effort, and wishes to know how things are progressing.

Though TOTV did not get the bill, it got quite a good outcome. The Nebraska Board of Education's commitment should mean that eventually all schools in Nebraska will have serious policies providing for alternatives to bullying and violence, and that children and youth will be encouraged to avoid these scourges through effective programs. TOTV would appreciate your writing to all of the members of the State Board of Education indicating your approval for the position it has taken and asking to be told of major steps that it is taking to implement the policy. When you write this letter, you may wish to mention some of the personal experiences or convictions that instigate your support for

contains many people who—if my assessment of them is correct—care that we have decent learning environments in our schools. If we create such environments, we will at least have begun the process of turning off the violence.

However, calling the Nebraska Board of Education needs to be followed by other, more concrete deeds. The schools of Nebraska are very strapped for funds, and this rule change is an unfunded mandate. Much can be done without funds in regular staff, board and in-service meetings in the local schools, but we as citizens need to support the schools to the hilt and encourage a gradual development of budgetary proposals that will permit teachers and administrators to be trained to recognize bullying among children and to

Liquor Commission Facing Lawsuits Over Whiteclay

Lincoln attorney and NFP member Ken Winston represented the organization at the March 27 Nebraska Liquor Control Commission hearing to outline legal concerns of malfeasance and violations of equal protection over the commission's conduct on Whiteclay. Printed below is the text of Winston's testimony, to which the three commissioners made no response.

My name is Kenneth C. Winston, and I am an attorney retained by Nebraskans for Peace to address issues in Whiteclay, Nebraska. I have specialized qualifications regarding two aspects of this issue. First, I am a native of Rushville, Nebraska and grew up there, so I have personal knowledge of the area and problems of alcohol abuse among the Native Americans. Second, I was legal counsel to the Legislature's General Affairs Committee for 8 years, and have experience dealing with Nebraska's liquor laws and the powers and duties of the Liquor Control Commission.

There are three issues I wish to address today, (1) the double standard between Lincoln and Whiteclay concerning criteria for revocation, (2) issues resulting from the Commission's failure to enforce its policy on sales to intoxicated persons in Whiteclay, and (3) the Commission's failure to follow statutory and regulatory standards in granting licenses in Whiteclay.

1. Whiteclay/Studio 14 Double Standard

I want to draw your attention to the contrast between the Commission's response to problem dealers in Whiteclay as opposed to the owner of Studio 14 on 'O' Street in Lincoln.

As a resident of Lincoln, I appreciate the efforts of Chief Tom Casady and the Lincoln Police Department enforcing state liquor law. Lincoln was recognized recently for having the fewest alcohol-related deaths of any city its size in the entire country. I also appreciate the Commission's support for the city of Lincoln in this regard. However, the Commission's actions regarding Studio 14 evidence a different, higher standard for retailers in Lincoln than the standard for retailers in Whiteclay.

As a result of the beefed up enforcement ordered by Governor Johanns a year ago this past February, the Arrowhead Inn had accumulated its fourth citation for a serious violation of Nebraska's liquor laws in just over three years (April 7, 1998-May 7, 2001).

Although the Commission's "Violations/Penalty Schedule" stipulates that four serious violations of one kind constitute automatic grounds for cancellation, it is my understanding that there is precedent for the Commission exercising its own judgment and prerogative to cancel or revoke licenses for *four serious violations*

of any kind. This would particularly make sense in an environment like Whiteclay, which has been consistently plagued with alcohol-related problems, but has no local law enforcement.

Chairman Bob Logsdon's comments in the July 14, 2001 *Omaha World-Herald* indicated that the Commission would demand four violations of the same type before canceling a license in Whiteclay. "While commissioners can deviate from the penalty schedule, Logsdon said, he doubted the board would do so. 'It's pretty standard on these penalties... You pretty much have to play it by the book.'"

However, just two days later, the Commission voted 3-0 to not just cancel—but **revoke**—the license of Lance Brown, the owner of Studio 14 in Lincoln, even though he did not have four violations of any one kind. At the very most, Studio 14 had three violations in one category. According to the July 17, 2001 *Omaha World-Herald*, Chairman Logsdon called for the revocation. "I didn't think I'd ever do that with a license," the article reported him as saying. "I didn't think there'd be one that bad."

I have to question whether the violations at Studio 14 are worse than what has happened in Whiteclay virtually any hour of the day from 9:00 a.m. in the morning till 11:00 p.m. or later at night. As far as I know there were no unsolved murders arising from the vicinity of Studio 14, no problems with patrons urinating on the sidewalk in front of the premises, there was no pattern of patrons consistently drinking outside the premises. Nebraskans for Peace State Board member Byron Peterson has taken a series of photos showing drinking on the premises of the Arrowhead Inn on several occasions, and copies of some of these photos accompany my testimony.

Another example of the double standard is as follows: Commissioner Flower, in defending her vote to revoke Brown's license, was quoted in the *World-Herald* story as saying, "The problem is his attitude, and he's never made any attempt to improve." What about the attitude of the owner of the Arrowhead Inn? It was a photo of a man nonchalantly drinking on the premises of the Arrowhead Inn a year ago this past January that compelled Governor Johanns to temporarily beef up enforcement in Whiteclay. Judging from these photos a year later, it doesn't appear as if Mr. Schwarting's attitude towards state law has undergone much improvement. In fact, the Arrowhead Inn was subsequently ticketed on August 27, 2001 for knowingly and intentionally selling alcohol on credit, a clearly willful offense that hardly bespeaks proper attitude. So why isn't the Commission insisting on **revocation**—or at least **cancellation**—of his license?

Despite Chairman Logsdon's assertion in the July 18, 2001 *Omaha World-Herald*

that the commission has a "mandate to follow state law and to not treat the Whiteclay merchants any differently than other liquor license owners," an obvious double standard is at work here. Downtown college nightclubs are subject to one set of rules, and the businesses in Whiteclay to another.

Now, I suppose we could chalk this contrast in treatment simply up to physical proximity: Whiteclay is small and remote and hardly any Nebraskans ever go there, and Studio 14 was just two blocks north on 'O' Street in our state capital.

However, there is a more disturbing aspect of this double standard. The patrons of the college bar scene in downtown Lincoln are overwhelmingly white. The patrons for the \$3.5 million annual alcohol trade in Whiteclay are Native Americans from the dry Pine Ridge Reservation. This creates a prima facie case that licensees are being treated differently because of the skin color of their clientele.

The Liquor Control Commission has been charged by the Nebraska Legislature and the Governor to impartially uphold state law. There is no provision for establishing double standards in treatment.

2. The Commission's failure to enforce its policy on sales to intoxicated persons in Whiteclay

The Commission's decision finding the Arrowhead Inn "not guilty" of two charges of selling to intoxicated persons creates additional problems for the Commission and limits its ability to exercise authority over retail liquor license holders. First of all, credible witnesses testified that they observed the smell of alcoholic liquor about both individuals. Second, witnesses testified that both individuals had bloodshot eyes. One clerk testified that he had been selling alcoholic liquor for 15 years. Blood alcohol tests on both individuals were more than twice the legal limit. And yet the Commission determined that neither clerk was guilty of selling to an intoxicated person.

This decision sets a bad precedent. It either is another example of the double standard for Whiteclay or, if it has statewide application, it means that as long as a person isn't falling down drunk, the retailer cannot be held liable. I shudder to think about the DWI implications of this decision; that it is all right to serve legally intoxicated persons as long as they can still walk without falling down, and God help those who may be in their path.

It also rewards bad practices, by indicating that a retailer with an untrained or unobservant clerk will be held to a lower standard than one who has been properly trained in determining intoxication. It is senseless for the Commission to rule that these store clerks, who literally sell millions of cans of beer annually, should not be

required to meet equivalent standards of visual observation to determine intoxication than those of law enforcement personnel, because this is what these people do all day every day. They see more drunks in a day than the State Patrol officer sees in a month. By lowering the standard for Whiteclay, you have effectively lowered the standard for the rest of the state.

3. The Commission's failure to follow statutory and regulatory standards in granting licenses in Whiteclay

It is difficult to square the licenses in Whiteclay with the statutory requirements for licensure. First, the applicant must demonstrate that he or she is fit, willing and able to properly provide the service proposed. Second, the applicant must show that he or she can conform to all provisions and requirements of the liquor control act and regulations. Third, the applicant has demonstrated the type of management and control to be exercised over the premises will be sufficient to insure that the licensed business can conform to all provisions and requirements of the act and rules and regulations adopted pursuant to it.

I question whether any of the current licensees are meeting any of these standards. They are unable or unwilling to train their employees on such simple and fundamental matters as how to determine intoxication. They are unable to conform to the provisions of the act and regulations, because they sell to intoxicated persons, sell on credit, and allow consumption on the premises. They do not exercise management and control over the premises as evidenced by the photos of drinking on the premises, the fights, and other unlawful activity that takes place.

In determining whether the above criteria are met, the Commission is also required to consider the following additional factors:

The nature of the neighborhood or community;

The existence or absence of other licenses;

The adequacy of law enforcement;

Sanitation or sanitary conditions; and

Whether the type of business or activity is consistent with the public interest.

Any rational examination of the situation in Whiteclay leads inescapably to the conclusion that none of these factors are being satisfied.

In conclusion, I am concerned that the Commission's actions or failure to act with regard to Whiteclay may have created legal liabilities for itself and the people of the state it is supposed to serve. If the Nebraska Liquor Control Commission is unwilling to appropriately discharge its duties, Nebraskans for Peace may find it necessary to take these issues to court in order to obtain equitable enforcement of our state's liquor laws.

Globalization, conclusion

some cases, the United States, have children who go through the garbage in the hopes of finding items that they can eat or sell to raise income.

The world's first human rights movement, the anti-slavery movement, also included an anti-child labor movement. This movement, fueled in part by reports in the media and the writings of such individuals as Charles Dickens and Mark Twain, led to efforts to bring about a reduction in child labor. In spite of the gains in the 19th and early 20th century, in the latter part of the 20th century and into the 21st century, the percentage of children engaged in extreme labor and the trafficking of children against their will has increased. Much of child labor is in the developing world (the South), but industrialized countries (the North) also benefits from the labor of children, some of which is part-time. In some industries in the United States, such as agriculture, child labor is an important—and poorly regulated—part of the American economy.

Children, because of the lack of a support system and extreme poverty, sometimes have to go onto the streets. Street children, such as those in Brazil, are exposed to serious risks, including sexual and labor exploitation. In 1992, when the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) (“the Earth Summit”) was to be held in Rio de Janeiro, the police and city workers kidnapped children off the streets and moved them out of the city; there were reportedly killings of street children in Rio de Janeiro and elsewhere. In some cases, the police officers that were involved in such cases were not prosecuted, meaning that they acted against children with impunity.

Convention on the Rights of the Child

Children have finally been covered by a human rights convention, the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), passed in 1990. The United States, for its part, took a long time to sign the convention, and it has yet to ratify it (i.e., get congressional support for it). While the CRC is a forward-looking and comprehensive piece of international legislation, the problem is that the convention lacks a means of enforcement. It requires governments to take a panel of experts' recommendations seriously. Its success, therefore, depends on primarily diplomacy and not legal action. Fortunately, legal precedents have been set with cases in Europe, the United States, and elsewhere that lay the foundations for enhanced children's rights.

The United States Department of State estimates that every year 700,000 children are trafficked—moved from one place to another across international borders—in order to utilize their services. At least 50,000 children are trafficked into the United States annually.

There have been cases recently in which young girls (and sometimes boys) have been smuggled into the United States and used as prostitutes. Such a case, for example, occurred in northern San Diego County in California in the past year (2001).

Child slavery and trafficking is at least a \$7 billion a year industry, according to the U.S. State Department. In some instances, it is tied closely to the drug trade. All too often, young people are lured to other places with the promises of jobs, places to stay, and high wages, only to find themselves living in terrible conditions, with little or no control over their own lives. Child prostitution is an extreme form of sexual abuse of children and an especially intensive form of exploitative child labor. The numbers of underage prostitutes—the targets of European, Asian, and American “sex tourists”—in Thailand are in the tens of thousands. The expansion of the tourism industry and the greater availability of information on sex tourism opportunities through the worldwide web have made child prostitution a lucrative business for countries, companies, and individuals. In some cases, girls are drawn into the sex trade through the promise of “mail order” marriages. Sex trafficking follows trade patterns and reflects the disparities in incomes between poorer and richer countries. Girls from central Asia, eastern Europe and Russia who go to the United States after being promised job opportunities have sometimes ended up in brothels in various parts of the country. There is relatively little case law relating to child prostitution, but there is new legislation being drawn up and implemented at the state and federal levels in the United States.

Child Soldiers

A major problem in the world today is children in armed conflicts. The roles of children in war and conflict make the issue of protecting children a matter of necessity. Unfortunately, the Convention on the Rights of the Child is weak on the issue of child soldiers. The Convention sets the recruitment age as low as 16, thus legitimizing the use of child soldiers. Children are forcibly recruited into militaries through kidnapping or conscription at gunpoint, as has occurred in Asia and Africa. In some cases, child soldiers are provided with drugs that are sold by multinational pharmaceutical firms, which

have yet to be prosecuted for their actions. It is only when guerilla groups, traffickers, and multinational corporations are investigated and prosecuted for their actions that these kinds of problems will be resolved.

The numbers of children at risk are on the rise in many areas where the effects of globalization can be seen. The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Food Program (WFP) have pointed out that hunger is a major problem in Africa, including in those countries where Structural Adjustment Programs (SAPs) have been carried out, such as Ghana. The impacts of structural adjustment—in which the International Monetary Fund imposes conditions on countries such as raising food prices, reducing the size of the civil service, and cutting back on spending for health, education, and welfare—on children and women are especially severe. In Africa in 2001, one person in three was chronically undernourished. Some of the people who are facing privation were internally displaced persons (IDPs), some of whom have had to leave their homes because of development projects such as dams and roads, which are part of the efforts to expand the infrastructure of the continent.

In the United States, globalization of trade in agricultural products has seen an expansion in the use of child labor. Agricultural work is by far the most grueling and dangerous employment area in which children are involved regularly in the United States. About one half to two thirds of all children engaged in seasonal agricultural labor are paid less than minimum wage. Children are exposed to hazardous levels of toxins from pesticides and fertilizers used in the fields, and they have lower access than adults to medical assistance. Under the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA), children as young as 12 can work in the agricultural industry. Human Rights Watch in a recent report says that the Fair Labor Standard Act's bias against farm worker children amounts to de facto race-based discrimination, given the fact that an estimated 85 percent of migrant and seasonal farm workers in the U.S. are ethnic minorities. The children of farm workers often have lower access to educational and training opportunities than other children in the country.

Of the world's largest business interests, 51 are multinational corporations and 49 are

nation-states. The World Trade Organization, a primary mechanism of economic globalization, has resisted the imposition of labor laws and environmental protection. The Multilateral Agreement on Investment (MAI), a set of trade rules that was negotiated in secret at meetings of the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development in Europe (OECD), forbids the use of investment criteria that includes consideration of the environmental, human rights, or labor records of nations or companies. The WTO, the OECD, and the European Union (EU) have attempted to get around the efforts of anti-globalization groups who have sought to have fair child and adult labor standards, environmental regulations, and occupational health and safety rules implemented.

The Three P's

Efforts are being made by a variety of organizations, some of them children's support groups such as the Children's Defense Fund, Save the Children Federation (SCF), the Children's Foundation, and the United Nations Children's Fund and other broadly focused human rights groups such as Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch, to promote the rights and well-being of children. In doing so, some of them stress what we might refer to as the three P's: Provision, Protection, and Participation. The Convention on the Rights of the Child and other international human rights conventions maintain that individuals have the rights to have their basic needs met—the rights to security, shelter, food, clean water, education, health care and recreation. Children have the right to protection—to be protected from harmful acts, including abuse, neglect and exploitation. Finally, in terms of participation, children should have the right to be represented, to have their voices heard and to have governments and organizations working with children accountable for meeting the challenges facing children in today's society.

Young people today can make a difference. They can take part in organizations that work with children. They can volunteer to work with groups that focus attention on children, the homeless, immigrants, refugees and people facing physical and mental challenges. They can learn about the issues facing children, and they can tell others about what they have learned. Young people can build careers around children's issues, study human rights in colleges and universities and work with government and non-government organizations that work with and on behalf of children. By focusing on issues that affect children and other people, the youth of today will be able to have a lasting impact on society and make the world a better place in which to live.

Where Was Marylyn?

Last month's newspaper was worth sharing with friends, but there was one obvious omission. One of the co-sponsors of the Peacemaker of the Year Award was mentioned by name only. Marylyn Felion has been a "Nebraskan for Peace" from the beginning (practically a founder). She is President of the Omaha Chapter and a working board member and contributor to the Omaha NFP newsletter, "Peace Matters." After returning from Nicaragua with Witness for Peace in the 1980s, she spent time in jail for opposing nuclear weapons and U.S. Central American policy. Last fall she received the Abolitionist's Award from Nebraskans Against the Death Penalty because of her pursuit of abolition after accompanying Robert Williams to his death in the Nebraska electric chair. The write-up on Sen. Chambers was fine, but where was Marylyn?

Peg Gallagher, Omaha

Editor's Response: My apologies for having given the impression of inequity in reporting the "2002 Peacemakers of the Year Awards." In the past, we have only run a photo of the people who were honored. This year, however, since Sen. Chambers had been unable to attend the Annual Peace Conference, and we'd had several requests for copies of the citation NFP State Board member Paul Olson had written about him, I decided to include the citation to "balance" the wonderful, larger photo we had of Marylyn with her award. It obviously didn't work out as I'd intended. And to make matters worse, there was a typographical error in the introductory paragraph that inadvertently deleted some of the copy about her. Given the contributions she had made to NFP over the years (particularly her work on abolition), no one was more deserving of the Peacemaker of the Year Award than Marylyn. I apologize if I diminished her reception of this honor in any way.

Farewell, Rowena

Another of Nebraskans for Peace's founders and stalwart supporters, Rowena Boykin, died Sunday, March 31 at the age of 91 after a long illness. A 'Peacenik' and proud of it, for more than half a century Rowena eagerly lent her time, her talents and her money to the cause of Peace and Justice. Helping to found Nebraskans for Peace--and to keep it alive--was all in a day's work for this native-born Nebraskan. With her death, a part of our history goes with her. We shall miss her feisty, indomitable spirit, but we will carry on.

In fact, to make sure we carry on, a Garage Sale will be held at Rowena's house, 1919 E Street, on Saturday April 27, with the proceeds earmarked for Nebraskans for Peace. Contact Margaret Vrana at 402-475-5020 if you would like to help or need more details.

A Whole Lotta Wind But Not Much Energy

A report on the feasibility of wind power generation in Nebraska figured prominently in two recent pieces in the *Omaha World-Herald*, "Energy idea not yet gone with the wind," 3/23/2002, and the unsigned lead editorial, "Tilting at Turbines," 3/27/2002. The report in question was prepared by the Nebraska Power Association, the policy organization of the state's publicly owned utilities, as a part of the Nebraska Wind Energy Task Force project.

The Task Force included the NPA and Nebraska's rural electric cooperatives, legislators, farmers, business, consumers, environmentalists and wind power advocates, stakeholders who began to meet in the fall of 2000 to answer questions posed by Governor Mike Johanns at a wind energy symposium in September of that year.

In effect, the Governor asked what are the roadblocks to the development of wind energy, especially for export, and what does Nebraska need to do to get over these impediments and realize its potential as "the Saudi Arabia of wind." Nebraska is the sixth windiest state in the U.S., but other less-windy states, including California, Texas, Minnesota and Iowa, have all outstripped us and enjoy the kind of economic development Nebraska's rural communities sorely need.

The Governor must be disappointed in the NPA

report. Instead of a visionary business plan for making Nebraska a leader in wind development, the NPA report portrays wind development as requiring a separate public entity—a straw man—then knocks him down. The report misses the mark by using old data and inflated cost estimates. It defines both cost and reliability too narrowly. It all but dismisses the saleable federal tax credits that are likely to pass Congress this year. And despite an express request by the Task Force, the report fails to compare wind generation for in-state use with other generation sources (using all costs, including decommissioning) on an apples-to-apples basis.

In a very real sense, though, the NPA report does answer the first part of the Governor's question. Clearly, the greatest obstacle to the development of wind generation in Nebraska is the entrenched attitude of most public utility boards.

Plain and simple, our public utilities understand their mission to be providing reliable power to the citizens of Nebraska at the lowest possible cost. That's the mission of the public power system under state law, and that's what they believe their power customers want. As voters, we elect these boards. As consumers, we are their customer base. If the NPA makes the bottom line job one, it's

because we do not tell them otherwise.

But a quarter century of environmental reporting in the media and environmental education in America's classrooms is bearing fruit. A recent deliberative poll indicates that Nebraska power consumers want clean, renewable energy, even at a price. Everybody cares. Bi-partisan support for renewable energy is building, and Congress will likely pass landmark legislation this summer that will help to level the playing field for wind and biofuels.

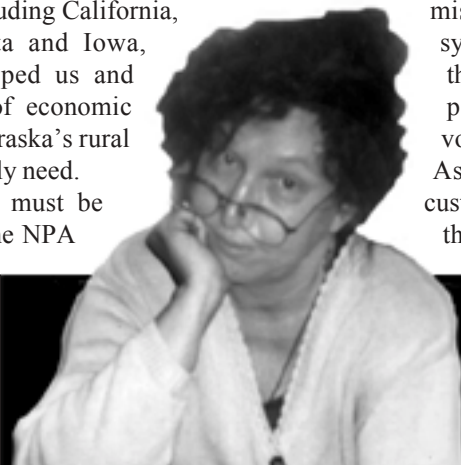
In his response to the NPA report, the Governor said most of the right things. He cited Nebraska's successful ethanol program as a model for wind development, and said Nebraska must not give up on wind power. "Over time, it is going to be a good investment," he said, and asked the NPA to make sure "wind energy is still part of the landscape in this state," the *Omaha World-Herald* reported.

The *Omaha World-Herald* editorial called wind unpredictability "perhaps the biggest problem" to overcome, adding that wind "can't be counted on from one moment to the next." In Nebraska, nothing is more present day by day than wind. Intuitively, we all know this. Wind is not constant, but that is another matter and does not disqualify wind as a clean and, yes, reliable power source with NO fuel costs, ever. Diversifying generation sources is not redundant, it's prudent.

In the end, Nebraska will not begin to realize our wind development potential until we compare, apples-to-apples, ALL the costs of generation sources. Cost comparisons have to go beyond fuel and transmission, to include environmental costs related to public health, acid rain, air, soil and water pollution, and global climate change, and decommissioning costs, which are enormous for toxic forms of generation like nuclear power and coal. As a rule, NPA members define cost to mean the price they pay for "conventional" fuel generation. Nevertheless, these other costs—often called "externalities"—are real, not just in quality of life but in actual dollars. We all pay, just not in our electric bill. We pay in our medical bills, in our insurance premiums, in Superfund clean ups and other tax bills.

Ironically, one municipal utility (an NPA member, HMPP Energy) is even now building a wind farm near Kimball, and is doing so on the economic merits, according to that utility's own testimony before the Power Review Board. And each election cycle brings a new opportunity to seat environmentally progressive directors on our public power boards.

The NPA report makes clear that it's going to take a lot of heavy lifting on the part of ordinary people and policymakers alike to create meaningful development of wind energy in Nebraska. The Governor sure can't do it alone.



From the Bottom by Sally Herrin

The real political spectrum isn't right to left...it's top to bottom.