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Miller designs bank sale plan

By Mona Z. Koppelman

Interim State Banking Director John Miller said Wednesday he has designed a formal structure for the sale of the insolvent Commonwealth Savings Co. Miller said the structure will be refined and completed by mid-afternoon today.

Miller spoke at a press conference at the State Office Building. Special Assistant Attorney General David Domina and County Attorney Michael Heavican also were present.

Miller said a large percentage of Commonwealth's assets are in real estate. He said real estate values have changed in the past few years, and it is necessary to have some of the bank's land holdings re-evaluated. Miller said 20 appraisers are doing some on-site work.

"Until we have dollar figures to insert (in the sale structure), we can't seek out prospective buyers," Miller said. "We don't know what we have to sell."

Miller said the sale structure, complete with dollar figures, should be ready early next week. He said he was "actively engaged in seeking out prospective purchasers," but declined to name anyone he had contacted.

Domina said investigation into Commonwealth's insolvency is continuing, and information has been requested and statements taken from various persons involved with Commonwealth. One partial

statement was made Wednesday morning by State Attorney General Paul Douglas.

Lancaster County court records indicate Douglas purchased 65 lots in the Fox Hollow residential area in southeast Lincoln from former Commonwealth Vice President Marvin Copple, and resold 50 lots to Copple's secretary, Judith A. Driscoll, for a total profit of \$79,500.

Douglas bought 12 of those lots from Copple and sold them to Driscoll during one day in 1979 at a profit of \$14,000, county records show.

Domina said he, Miller and Heavican had talked with Douglas for three hours Wednesday. Domina said Douglas made a sworn statement that has not yet been concluded. He said he requested "an extensive series of documents" and information from Douglas. When the requested information is compiled, Douglas will meet with the three men and conclude his statement.

"I assured him (Douglas) I would not form any conclusions or share any impressions about his statement until the entire investigation . . . is concluded," Domina said.

Domina said he also has requested information from seven public officials other than Douglas — four present or formerly elected officials, and three non-elected. Domina declined to name the officials and said disclosure of their names could prejudice the investigation.

He said the reason he released Douglas' name was because "Douglas preferred" that the information be disclosed. Domina said the investigation was "broader than personal financial matters," and involved the "activities of some persons in their official capacities."

The investigation's primary area of concern is still lending and borrowing activities involving Commonwealth and the S.E. Copple family, Domina said, but has been "broadened to involve Commonwealth affiliates." Heavican was silent during most of the conference, but did indicate that former Commonwealth President S.E. Copple would return to Nebraska in the "not too distant future." Copple, who has been living in Arizona, is charged with exceeding a loan limit for an officer of a financial institution.

"We don't put a deadline on that sort of thing," Heavican said. He also said the "story is not closed on the criminal end (of the investigation)."

Domina said officials were examining transactions made during the 60-day period before the state declared Commonwealth insolvent Nov. 1. He said this investigation is attempting to identify patterns in withdrawals. He said it was "fairly easy to identify large withdrawals early," and the next step was to "move down to smaller withdrawals" to see whether there are patterns there.

"We can't tell if withdrawals were made outside the ordinary course of business yet," Domina said.

Sartori: Survivors of nuclear attack face grim life on changed world

By Judi Nygren

Survivors of a nuclear bomb would exist in a completely changed world according to a UNL physics professor who spoke at Selleck Quadrangle Wednesday night.

According to a U.S. government study, if the Soviet Union dropped one nuclear bomb on Omaha, individuals within 50 miles of the explosion would die from lethal doses of radiation, people within 100 miles would experience severe nausea, vomiting and hair loss and people within 200 miles would suffer mild radiation symptoms.

Dr. Leo Sartori said while people can survive a nuclear explosion, survivors face a bleak existence.

"There is no way that I can foresee, even if I survived a nuclear bomb, that myself and my child could live life like I'd want to," he said.

The major problem, he said is supplying the world with food.

The dust and soot left from a large scale nuclear war and the fires that would occur would absorb the sun's rays, creating a dark and cold world. Sartori said people would be unable to grow any type of crop for at least one year.

In a smaller scale war, he said sources of food may survive, but then survivors face the problem of long-term radiation effects.

He cited an example of a cow eating contaminated grass and passing the radiation onto people who drink the cow's milk. Eventually a person accumulates enough radiation to cause cancer. Survivors would also face a radically changed society. People would steal, fight for food and have no respect for authority, he said. He said he does not believe these problems could ever be overcome completely after a holocaust.

Because Sartori does not see a very bright future for survivors, he said "we (U.S. citizens) better put emphasis on preventing nuclear war."

Joe Hayman, president of the Selleck Government said the government sponsored the forum on surviving nuclear war because of the interest "The Day After" aroused in students. Twelve people attended.



Staff Photo by John Zoz

UNL professor Leo Sartori spoke to a group of UNL students Wednesday night in Selleck Quadrangle about the possible results of a nuclear war.

Kerrey urges businessmen to be vocal

By Jonathan Taylor

Individual businessmen should tell their senators how the government ought to operate at the city, state and national levels Gov. Bob Kerrey said Wednesday. Kerrey opened the first Legislative Conference presented by the Lincoln Chamber of Commerce at the Nebraska Center for Continuing Education, 33rd and Holdrege streets.

About 90 members attended the conference to listen and take part in discussions concerning critical issues facing business.

Kerrey told chamber members they should not turn just to their associations to represent their collective interests. He said they should come forth as individuals to express their opinions about government expenditures, taxes and and changes that concern them.

Area senators took part in the first panel discussion, titled "Your Taxes: Who Pays Them and Who Gets Them."

Featured were Sens. Shirley Marsh, Lincoln; Cal-

vin Carsten, Avoca; Don Wesely, Lincoln and chairman of the Appropriations Committee, Jerome Warner of Waverly.

Most of the discussion centered on state property taxes and ways to lower them. Landis said of the states depending more on property taxes than sales taxes, Nebraska's reliance is one of the heaviest. His suggestions for decreasing reliance on property taxes included the introduction of a new tax base, increased sales tax or increased income tax.

Carsten said a project conducted during the interim involved hearings throughout the state. He said taxpayers in all areas reported they believed property taxes were too high and supported the broadening of the tax base. The hearings showed taxpayers did not want a new source of taxation but a shift to increased sales tax.

Another of the conference's discussions dealt with the development of educational policy and the ways tax money is used in education. Several state senators specializing in education and UNL representatives took part in the discussion.

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