

Hearings continue on petition charging harassment

By John Ortmann

Hats figured prominently in testimony at a State Court of Industrial Relations hearing Thursday.

The hearing is to decide on a petition charging harassment and discrimination of union members by the UNL Campus Police administration. The petition was filed in behalf of Local 567 of the International Brotherhood of Police Officers, which hopes to become the bargaining agent for Campus Police employees.

The hearing concerns the proposed reclassification of two women police officers as civilian clerks.

Officer Barbara McGill, who is pregnant, and officer Mary Fleming, who injured her knee off-duty, testified earlier that the re-

classification is meant to prevent them from voting in union elections.

Campus Police officials maintain the move is meant to provide the women with work until they can return to patrol duty.

Officer Joy Citta, local president, testified Thursday she, along with three other women officers, were issued a "feminine" hat to replace the standard "cowboy" style also worn by male officers.

Citta said the hat was too large, making her appear ridiculous.

Campus Police Director Gail Gade then forced her to wear the hat to "get back" at her for her union activities, she said.

Under cross-examination, Citta admitted she had refused to notify the de-

partment of her proper hat size and made no attempt to learn what it was. She also said she had torn the hat-size label from her old hat, which was also too large, preventing its use as a reference point.

John Duve, UNL traffic and parking coordinator, denied in earlier testimony that he told Fleming he would lose his job if he told the truth at the hearing. Fleming has stated outside of testimony that this conversation took place, according to union attorney J. Murry Shaeffer.

Duve also testified that although Fleming's duties while she was assigned indoors after her injury did not coincide exactly with those of his usual assistant, they could be described as police duties.

The officers' duties while assigned indoors is at issue because the women contend there is a great deal of police work to be done by non-patrol officers and reclassification therefore is unnecessary.

The women testified they feared they would not be rehired as police officers after their medical conditions returned to normal.

However, Duve testified that it would be in the department's interest to hire them because of the investment they represent.

The hearing continues today at 9:30 a.m. in Supreme Court Hearing Room two in the State Capitol.



Photo by Mark Billingsley

Carl Mevs, Haitian director of international affairs

Globetrotting Haitian diplomat here to promote cultural exchanges

By Joe Starita

At 32, Carl Mevs is a veteran of the diplomatic corridors which link his native Caribbean Island of Haiti to foreign capitals around the world.

Born and raised in Port-au-Prince, educated in Haiti, France and Portugal, Mevs can draw upon six languages to aid his role as Haiti's director of international affairs.

He currently is midway through an eight-city 30-day visit to the United States sponsored by the U.S. State Department.

One of those scheduled stops is Lincoln, where Mevs spent three days this week shuttling between visits with State Treasurer Frank Marsh and City Councilman John Robinson, UNL French classes and the NU College of Law.

A globetrotter, Mevs went to Luxembourg in 1973 for a seminar on the Parliament of Europe, to Brazil in 1976 for a conference on international law and sandwiched tourist treks through England, Spain and Italy between business.

Since becoming the liaison between Haiti's government and her foreign embassies and consulates in September 1976, Mevs has been to New York to attend last summer's U.N. session on Sea Law and for September's opening session of the U.N. General Assembly.

Bundled inside a navy blue trench coat, Mevs took time out Wednesday to discuss the purpose of his visit to Lincoln and to offer some insights into how U.S. foreign policy is perceived in the Third World (Asia, Africa and South America).

"I am here to obtain a better understanding of American culture and civilization," said Mevs, "that could result in cultural and educational exchanges between Haiti and America."

One exchange Mevs said he would like to see involves sending Haitian students to UNL to study agriculture.

Mevs said his visit with State Treasurer Marsh had been "very productive," adding that the doors "may be opened to allow students from Haiti to come to Nebraska and learn about new agricultural techniques."

"Poverty and underdevelopment plague all Third World countries, Haiti included," Mevs said. "Much has been accomplished through hard work in recent years, and perhaps through exchanges like these we can break the chains underdevelopment has imposed on us."

Another problem plaguing Third World countries, Mevs said, is a lack of solidarity which leaves countries vulnerable to foreign exploitation.

"When oil is discovered in an underdeveloped country it always attracts the desires of foreign powers," Mevs explained. "We (Third World countries) must be vigilant in seeing that the extraction is valuable to us."

Mevs said the Third World countries must band together—regardless of their political and economic differences—to achieve the solidarity that is needed to "help our own people."

Mevs added that cooperation between developed and underdeveloped countries is vital to international political and economic health.

"The countries which give aid must make the effort here," he said.

Mevs said the Peace Corps is an example of not inspiring confidence.

"It is a fairly widespread belief among Third World countries that the Peace Corps is a front for the CIA (Central Intelligence Agency)," he said.

In addition, Mevs said Third World countries do not nationalize foreign industries for fear of reprisal.

He said the Dominican Republic threatened to do this in 1963, and there were 20,000 Marines outside Santo Domingo within 24 hours.

Mevs labeled Haiti's relations with the U.S. as "excellent," adding that his country has no diplomatic relations with Cuba.

"All countries of the Caribbean are sovereign states which choose their own form of government," he said. "I think Cuba will finally understand not to interfere in the affairs of other states."

The form of government Haiti has chosen, Mevs said, is a republic whose constitution was ratified by the people giving the president the right to rule for life.

Haiti's 5 million people are benefiting from 20 years of stable government under its ninth "president for life," Jean-Claude Duvalier Jr., Mevs said.

Class warfare, which rampaged for more than 300 years in Haiti, was abolished by Duvalier Sr., he said, adding that the government is making efforts to provide a free press with equal rights for all citizens.

Reconciling the differences between Haiti's blacks, whites and mulattos has allowed the government to function more smoothly in providing equal rights, he said.

Mevs said he has noted enormous differences between American cities on his current visit.

"I had been to America six or seven times before, but it was always to New York," he said. "So far I've been to Boston, Chicago, Washington, D.C. and Lincoln."

"Life in these cities seems to be calmer, more peaceful with the people friendlier towards foreigners. This makes me think New York is not a typically American city."

One difference Mevs said he has noticed between Lincoln and Haiti is the weather.

"This is the coldest I've been in two years, but it's not disagreeable. It feels good. In Haiti, even in the coldest months, you never need a sweater."

inside friday

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Task force is mitted by ASUN's lack of concern

By Mike Patten

ASUN's task force on student government has charged the ASUN senate with lacking seriousness in dealing with the task force's recent proposal and has threatened to quit.

Task Force Chairman Steve Pederson Wednesday night told the senate its actions have left the task force frustrated and depressed.

"If the group that creates you doesn't take you seriously," he said, "what's the use in having that group?"

"A lot of the members of the task force have been asking themselves, 'why are we

spending our Sunday nights for this?'"

"We're not quitters. We either want a new charge from ASUN or we want to continue on with the full support of ASUN. I certainly hope that ASUN will take us seriously, good or bad."

Two weeks ago the task force had a hearing on its proposal to expand the student government from 35 senators to 76. ASUN second vice president Ken Christoffersen testified at the hearing that the task force had not followed the instructions written in the senate act creating the task force.

"We have followed this chart," Peder-

son said about the charges. "That's why it came as a real shock to us when Ken told us to start over. We never got any input from ASUN."

Sen. Mary Fejfar said she felt ASUN has supported the task force all along.

"We back you," she said. "My gosh, we created you. I think a lot of us were purposely staying away from your meetings so that ASUN wouldn't be influencing you. We're not supposed to be providing you with proposals."

ASUN President Greg Johnson said he wanted to know how the task force came up with its proposal before he would en-

dorse it.

"You really didn't give us your rationale for these charges," he said. "We're not going to endorse this just because we created you."

Pederson explained that the proposal is an attempt to make student government more accountable.

"We took the eight basic things that students want and put them under one government and everybody is accountable to everybody," he said. "With the system you've got now, there isn't anything for them (senators) to do and nobody is accountable to anybody."