

Truong: Carter attempting to regain power of Nixon

By Debora Hemminger

President Carter is trying to reobtain the power for the presidency that President Nixon lost during Watergate, a Vietnamese nationalist said Tuesday.

David Truong, who is appealing a charge of espionage, spoke to a crowd numbering 100 people at the Nebraska Union.

Truong said in May, 1978, the government ordered his phone bugged.

It was looking for evidence to convict him, he said, but it found nothing in eight months.

When recipes were discussed over the phone Truong said, the government even thought it was a secret code.

Truong said President Carter was told to put a television camera on Truong so the government could watch him at all times.

Truong said the government wanted to convict him because, "I've been very visible participating in lobbying against the Thieu regime." Even though Truong did not mention it, he set up the Vietnam Political Freedom Committee in 1969. Also, Truong was active in the Committee of Concerned Asian Scholars in 1971.

The Daily Nebraskan learned through an interview with Truong last week that he was given information by former Attorney General Griffin Bell which Truong passed onto a Vietnamese newspaper in Paris. Truong said that in Washington, "political information is given or leaked on a regular basis."

An audience member asked Truong what the information he was alluding to. Truong answered, "The books that I sent home told about how to build a cement plant, or . . . stuff you can buy from the U.S. government."

Truong said the information was "cultural technology . . . which would be adaptable to third world governments . . . (The information) helps develop a small country."

Truong said the information was a group of "policy analyses and events and so forth."

Truong who was sentenced to 15 years in jail, but is out on \$250,000 bail said if he is found guilty again when he appeals next week, "It means that any group,

for the first time, has written a blank check to whoever sits in the White House to use electronic surveillance."

Truong said his arrest on January 31, 1978 was based upon the testimony of one person and information obtained illegally. Truong said before his arrest, the government put a microphone in his apartment and opened his mail.

When he was arrested, Truong said the arresting parties were very proud to arrest a Vietnamese. He said they called the incident, "Magic Dragon."

Truong said, "Nobody likes to lose a war . . . Since 1975, the U.S. has been trying to pay it (Vietnam) back."

Truong said because of the lobbying and propaganda that he was a Vietnamese spy during the trial, "It shows the case is more political football than anything else."

"Some lawyers call it a case of government overreaching," Truong said.

In this case, Truong said, "The judge ruled that the fruit of illegal surveillance can be brought as admissible evidence."

"This case proved that the president has the power to wiretap anyone without going to court," Truong said.

"In this case, it was decided that national defense can just about encompass nearly everything under the sun," Truong said.



Daily Nebraskan Photo

Vietnamese nationalist David Truong.

Nun in law school: Pope insensitive to struggles of women in America

By Lynn Mongar

Working with poor people in Omaha and New Orleans was at times a "painful" experience for Sister Cathy Gibran.

"It made me acutely aware of the powerlessness and the oppression of these people," the 26-year-old nun said.

A member of the Sisters of Mercy order, Sister Gibran said that she believed she could better aid the poor if she were a lawyer.

"I found myself wishing I was a lawyer so often that I finally thought, why not?" This fall, Sister Gibran entered

UNL College of Law to serve the poor in a "more direct" way.

Sister Gibran said there are two levels of America today.

"There is one America governed by law giving certain basic human rights to its citizen. The other America is without law or justice. Its citizens are deprived of these basic human rights," she said. "I want to stand by that other America."

Sister Gibran said she is not original, or "Lone Ranger" in her pursuit of a law degree. She said she knows of another nun who received her law degree from UNL and is working in Omaha.

Sister Gibran said women are seeking more active roles in all areas of service within the Roman Catholic Church.

There aren't any "pious" or "cozy" little groups of religious women anymore, she said.

"They're out into the mainstream and that is where they should be," she said.

Sister Gibran also said that Pope John Paul II is unaware of the desires of American religious women.

"The pope is sensitive to social justice issues, but I don't think he is sensitive to the struggles of American women," she said. "I think he quite doesn't know what to do with us," she added.

Sister Gibran said that women in the church should proceed in their new directions, "with or without the sanctions of the pope."

Sister Gibran said she sees herself as an assertive woman and that "religious women are no longer the pansy types."

Religion is in an "exciting stage," she said.

"People are moving out of traditional roles into various kinds of social work, such as legal work."

Sister Gibran said that after she graduates from law school she plans to live and work among poor people.

"I can't see living a life of coziness in suburbia," she said.

She said she could not feel "authentic," or "straight" with the people she wants to help, if she isn't living as they do.

"I want to live a life-style which won't be foreign to them, she said. "I guess I believe in living simply."

She said that one of the most challenging things about living with the poor is that there are no tidy answers to complex problems.

"I'm learning to live with ambiguity," she said. "I think a big part of it is learning to live with the quest."



Photo by Tom Gessner

Practice makes perfect, or so Jan Gellhaus hopes as she stretches into shape. For more pictures, turn to page 10.

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