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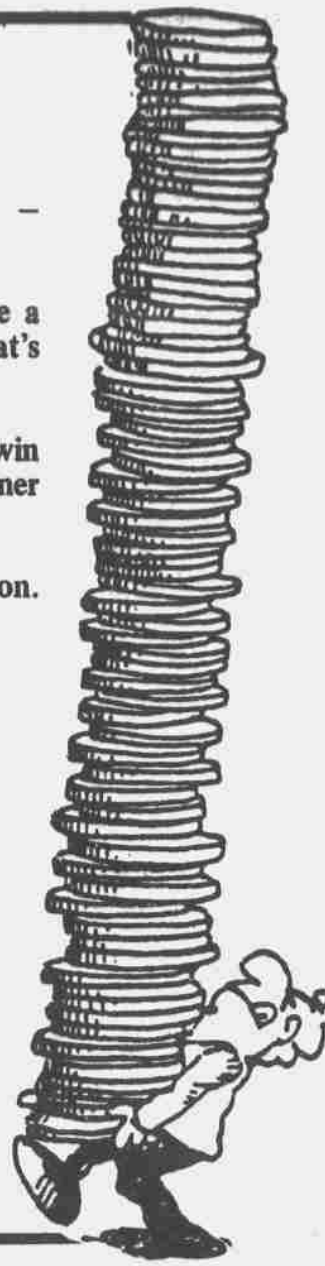
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MX missile hearing marred by questions left unanswered

By Chris Welsch

A Nebraska Legislative hearing on the MX missile Thursday in Sidney, Neb., provided an opportunity for discussion of the MX, but left many questions unanswered, a state senator said.

It was hoped that Air Force representatives could be present at the hearing to answer questions, said Sen. Robert Clark of Sidney. However, a letter received by the Legislature's Executive Board from the Air Force explained that since no decisions have been made concerning basing of the MX, there would be no reason for Air Force officials to attend the meeting.

The decision is expected from President Reagan by Dec. 1, the letter said.

The hearing was the first step towards fulfilling the requirements of Legislative Resolution 326, which was introduced by Sen. Clark, and was passed April 6.

The resolution calls for public hearings on the MX, along with detailed investigations of sociological, economic and environmental impact, if the MX was placed in Wyoming or the Nebraska Panhandle.

Twenty-seven people spoke at the meet-

ing, said Mark Bonkiewicz, a Sidney farmer and member of the Tri-State MX Coalition. Only one of the 27 speakers talked in favor of the MX.

The Tri-State Coalition, a pro-defense group against land-basing of the missile, wrote the resolution. Bonkiewicz said he was pleased with the turnout at the hearing.

"Aside from the fact that no questions were answered," he said, "the number of people at the hearing shows a great concern on this issue."

I think it is indicative of Air Force policy that they sent no one to hear our questions," he said.

The Air Force is trying to keep people from getting aroused, he said. They are playing down the importance of the MX.

Bonkiewicz said he thinks the MX missiles will be based at Warren Air Force Base in Wyoming.

The fact that Reagan, Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger, and Interior Secretary James Watt have all visited Warren is more than a coincidence, he said.

The drilling of the holes near Cheyenne also indicates interest in Wyoming as a potential basing site, he said.



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Israel . . .

Continued from Page 4

With Israel's legitimacy undermined, its sympathy and support — notably in the United States — are undermined as well. Yet because of the close ties between Israel and the United States, any undermining of support for Israel undermines America's standing, too.

Thus the other-side-of-the-coin consequences: enhanced prestige for the PLO and Comrade Yasser; enhanced credibility for the Palestinian cause that he has manipulated for his (and the Kremlin's) goal, the annihilation of Israel; the possible crushing of Israel's Likud coalition, which Begin's domestic political adversaries have been unable to accomplish themselves; and the questioning, among Israelis and Jews everywhere, whether they ought to fight so single-mindedly anymore — not only against their own victimization, but also for moral right.

Israel always has been measured by a different standard, often a double standard.

Never mind that it's a bum rap. Never mind that it's a demand reeking of the very anti-Semitism the self-righteous deplore. The barbarities committed in Sabra and Shatila are a gift to this century's foremost barbarians.

And who knows: Even now they may be clinking their glasses in the Kremlin, and toasting: "Next year, Jerusalem."

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