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Greg Ramage of Chicago and Sandy White of Northwestern Bell in Omaha survey the exhibition.

## Technology exhibition expands awareness of communications

By Jonathan Taylor

An exhibition of communication and information technology meant to expand Nebraskans' awareness of the state's potential in those industries will continue today until 5 p.m. and Friday until noon in the Capitol.

As part of the recommendations from Gov. Bob Kerrey's Communications Task Force, the display, titled "A Golden Opportunity for Nebraska," features more than 40 public and private sector organizations demonstrating their communications and information capabilities.

Emphasis on communications knowledge "has been a priority of the governor since he took office," Renee Wessels, a Kerrey press aide, said.

Because of this, Wessels said, a 30-member task force was created in 1983 to look at communications and information industry potential in Nebraska. The task force completed a report presenting five recommendations:

1. Develop a full-time staff with expertise in the fields of communications and information systems.
2. Establish a public/private sector technology review panel to develop objectives, priorities and recommendations for the staff to act upon.
3. Develop a data base containing information on communication and information industries' available resources.
4. Strengthen small business assistance programs to encourage entrepreneurship in communication and information systems in Nebraska.
5. Encourage development of new business opportunities through existing economic development programs.

To implement the task force recommendations, the task force report said, LB1125 was introduced to expand the Department of Administrative Services, Division of Communications to house a Telecommunications and Information Center.

In a news conference at the governor's mansion, Kerrey said the government's role in making the state more aware of the communication and information industries is three-fold. The technology should first be introduced into the educational system's primary, secondary and post secondary levels. The government should then learn how to regulate the industries producing the technology and finally, make the connection between discovering and presenting the technology's applications.

Kerrey felt it was important to showcase Nebraska's communications industries in practical terms by exhibiting examples of the equipment with staff on hand to show how it functions, Wessels said. This ability to see what Nebraska's communication industries can do on a first-hand basis, Wessels said, "breaks barriers the new technologies might present."

## Kerrey: Special session unlikely

By Mona Z. Koppelman

Gov. Bob Kerrey fielded a mixed bag of questions at a press conference Wednesday morning but declined to comment on Attorney General Paul Douglas' impeachment.

Kerrey said there are many things he can't do as governor, and commenting on the impeachment proceedings is one of them. The impeachment trial is scheduled to begin Monday.

Kerrey did comment on Commonwealth, however, and his comments may discourage depositors. "I think you could say it is unlikely we will have a resolution this session," he said.

Kerrey said he has not seen any proposals by senators that he "felt comfortable enough with to sign." He said a call for a special session also is improbable.

"You don't call a special session based on hypothetical situations," he said. He said that unless legislators reach a general consensus so they could "get something done" during a special session, a call is unlikely.

Kerrey said action on Commonwealth would not slide to a standstill, however. He said he will meet Monday with state Banking Director Roger Beverage. Kerrey said it may be possible to have recent court decisions appealed to the State Claims Board.

The state will continue to try to establish the value of Commonwealth assets and will decide about auctioning off those assets, Kerrey said. He said the banking department also will pursue "aggressively" offers by the Bank of Colorado.

Kerrey said he does not support efforts to increase the state sales tax to establish funds to pay back depositors.

Kerrey said he did think the state has a legal responsibility to depositors, even beyond the court's decisions.

"The court said 100 percent repayment to depositors was too much," Kerrey said. "I don't happen to think so."

He said he was anxious to find a plan to maximize returns to depositors and minimize losses to the state.

Kerrey briefly reviewed a list of proposals, now before the Legislature, that he is most concerned with. First on the list was the budget. He said he is sure the budget figure would remain close to \$818 million, but would consider \$14 million or \$15 million in reductions as some senators have suggested.

Kerrey said he thought he could drum up support from Nebraskans for his push to increase teachers' salaries, but so far the public has been more enthusiastic about property tax relief.

### Thursday

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Traffic through the Nebraska Union paused briefly Wednesday afternoon as part of a voter registration drive sponsored by UNL's Government Liaison Committee and the Nebraska State Student Association. A record 744 people registered during the first two days of the drive, voter registration chairwoman Heidi Burkland said. The drive continues today from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Nebraska Union and from 4:30 to 6 p.m. in the East Union.