

Problems of MX deployment discussed

By John Meissner

The MX missile is a weapon of fighting, not deterrence, because it has first-strike capabilities, said the Rev. Steve Sidorak, a Denver minister and founder of Western Solidarity, an organization opposed to MX deployment.

"We don't want the MX in Wyoming or Nebraska. We don't want it anywhere," Sidorak said. Preparations begin this year for deployment in 1986 of 100 MX missiles in existing Minuteman missile silos.

Opposition to the MX comes from many sides including people who are against a nuclear freeze, Sidorak said. The MX has some real problems — the method of deployment foremost among them, he said.

"The worst thing you can do is put it in known, fixed silos," Sidorak said. "This just invites Soviet attack, especially at a time of actual crisis, like the early stages of a war."

Gov. Bob Kerrey asked President Reagan for a one-year delay in deploying the missiles, a move Sidorak said should peak people's curiosity.

"He must know something about them if he doesn't think their deployment should start right now," Sidorak said.

Sidorak, in Lincoln Friday and Saturday for the State Coalition Meeting of the Nebraska Nuclear Weapons Freeze Campaign said he was appalled at the lack of knowledge concerning the MX in Nebraska and blamed the media for not educating the public on MX issues. "In Nebraska, the media has fallen

asleep," Sidorak said. "I don't understand why the media, especially the print media, isn't doing more investigative reporting."

Sidorak said that traditionally, the more people learn about the MX, the less they like it.

The freeze campaign is working to get the MX and freeze issues on the Nebraska ballot in November.

"It's always been the case that local

political opposition was the basis for defeating an issue," Sidorak said.

Sidorak praised the Nebraska freeze group for their upbeat mood and said they seemed excited to get the issue on the ballot.

"Even though the initiative is non-binding, campaign members are providing information to the public no one else is providing," Sidorak said.

Youth freeze campaign started

The Lincoln/Lancaster Youth for a Nuclear Freeze met last week to organize a campaign to educate youth about a nuclear freeze and the threat of nuclear holocaust, said the group's president.

Andrew Broman said the group was assembled last month by the Lincoln Nuclear Weapons Freeze Campaign to work with the city's junior and senior high school and college students. The group currently has about 15 members, many of whom attend Lincoln High School, he said.

Their first fund-raising activity will be 10-kilometer nuclear freeze walk, "Legs Against Arms," May 6. The money will be used for publicity, including newsletters and brochures to promote the nuclear freeze campaign, Broman said.

Broman said the public is invited to the next meeting April 16, at 7 p.m. in the Nebraska Union. For more information about the group or "Legs Against Arms," call the Lincoln Nuclear Weapons Freeze Campaign at 474-5159.

Fund-raising pole-sit begins

By Jim Berryman

Phi Gamma Delta and Chi Omega will be sitting up in the air this week to help make Nebraskans healthier, said the Phi Gamma Delta publications chairman.

Jeff Hanson said the event is the annual pole-sit to raise money for the American Lung Association of Nebraska. The 100-hour sitting marathon begins today at 11 a.m. and continues until Friday at 3 p.m., he said.

All Phi Gamma Delta and Chi Omega members, close to 200 in all, will participate in the event, Hanson said. Each member will sit for an hour on a platform pole elevated about 20 feet above the ground in front of the Phi Gamma Delta House at 1425 R St., he said.

Participants in the event have been collecting pledges around the UNL campus based on hourly donations. Hanson said the pole-sit goal is about \$2,500.

Last year, the pole-sit raised \$1,100 for the Nebraska Human Resources Foundation, said Bob Parker, last year's Phi Gamma Delta pole-sit chairman. This year, he said, more people are involved so the funds should be greater.

Snow, sleet and rain greeted last year's pole sitters Parker said.

Hanson said he is excited about the event and said bad weather won't bother him.

"It is really interesting and a great way to raise money," Hanson said. "I guess if there is bad weather, it will make it even more exciting."

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