

# News Digest

By The Associated Press

## Bork accusations continue

Senator says nominee rewrote Watergate history to benefit

WASHINGTON — Robert H. Bork was accused Tuesday of rewriting history to make himself "the hero of Watergate," while former Attorney General Elliot Richardson vigorously defended the Supreme Court nominee's conduct in the firing of the Watergate special prosecutor 14 years ago.

Richardson told the Senate Judici-

ary Committee, "I think the nation owes Robert Bork a substantial debt."

But members of the special prosecution team that investigated the Watergate scandal made it clear they felt otherwise.

Meanwhile, Sen. Alan Cranston, the Senate's second-ranking Democrat, said support for Bork's confirmation has slipped so much that "I think he's licked."

"According to my latest head count, 49 senators are likely to vote against Bork and 40 are likely to vote for him, leaving 11 unpredictable," said Cranston, D-Calif. He said that represented a loss of five favorable votes since a headcount before Bork

began testifying.

At the White House, presidential spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said Bork himself has been meeting with senators individually as part of the continuing effort to win confirmation.

Fitzwater also said President Reagan intends to lobby senators personally as well as on the telephone.

"We have four or five weeks before the vote; there is plenty of time," he said.

The spokesman said Reagan is not considering whom he might nominate if Bork is rejected and "gets angry at the very thought of even mentioning a replacement."

## Passengers hit ceiling, floor in turbulent flight

NEW YORK — Passengers on an Eastern Airlines jet bound for New York said Tuesday they found themselves smashed against the ceiling and dodging flying dinner wear after the plane hit severe turbulence on a trip from Puerto Rico.

Hospital officials said 27 people were treated for minor back and neck

injuries in the turbulence, which forced the plane to make an unexpected stop in Bermuda.

Airline officials said 21 people were injured.

The shaken and weary passengers arrived at Kennedy International Airport at 3:15 a.m. Tuesday. At least 10 were wearing neck braces, one was in a wheelchair and some had blood on their shirts.

## Correction

A story in the Sept. 24 Daily Nebraskan mistakenly reported that Tax Payers for Quality Education was responsible for having the book "Quartzite Trip" withdrawn from the public school libraries. The story should have read that the decision was solely an internal one of the Lincoln Public Schools.

The L-1011, carry 129 passengers and 10 crew members, took off from San Juan on Monday afternoon and encountered the turbulence about 180 miles west-southwest of Bermuda, said Eastern spokesman Robin Matell. Flying at 33,000 feet, the plane suddenly plummeted.

## In Brief

### Famous pilots make stopover in Beatrice

BEATRICE — Dick Rutan and Jeana Yeager, who made aviation history by flying their Voyager aircraft around the world without refueling, weren't recognized at Beatrice Municipal Airport until Yeager flashed her credit card.

"I was a bumbling idiot after I found out who they were," airport attendant Chuck Hubka said.

Rutan and Yeager stopped in Beatrice on Sunday to refuel their twin-engine Beechcraft Baron airplane on a trip to Quebec.

### Signatures gathered for school board recall

SCOTTSBLUFF — A petition drive to recall the six members of the Scottsbluff School Board gathered enough signatures to force the members either to resign or face a recall election.

The recall drive began last June after district patrons criticized the board's proposed 1987-88 budget. The group said the board was not being sympathetic to the plight of many district patrons and was spending too much money on unnecessary courses, non-certified staff and administrators' salaries.

### Yale president slams 'gay school' article

NEW HAVEN, Conn. — Yale University President Benno C. Schmidt Jr. has labeled as "drivel" an article in The Wall Street Journal depicting Yale as a "gay school," and a school officer said Tuesday that homosexuals make up only "a minute fraction" of its population.

The Journal's Aug. 4 article was a first-person essay on the Leisure & Arts page by Julie V. Iovine, a 1977 Yale graduate who lives part time in New Haven. Iovine quotes one Yale student who said she received a notice calling one in four Yale students a gay.

### Platte Center robber blesses bank managers

PLATTE CENTER — Three men robbed the Platte Center Bank and apparently used two vehicles to escape Tuesday, said Platte County Attorney Bill Kurtenbach.

He said the robbers tied up the three employees in the bank and took all of the money from a teller drawer. As they left, one of them told the bank managers "God bless you," an eyewitness said.

### Waste dump could be 100,000-year hazard

WASHINGTON — The planned disposal of so-called "low level" radioactive wastes in state controlled landfills could saddle future generations with deadly environmental hazards for more than 100,000 years, said the Radioactive Waste Campaign, a non-profit organization based in New York City.

## Military officer testifies

## Navy intelligence overrated

WASHINGTON — The Navy underestimated the threat posed by Iranian mines when it prepared to carry out President Reagan's plan to protect Kuwaiti tankers, the nation's top military officer said Tuesday.

I think it's eminently fair to say we made a number of underestimates," Adm. William Crowe Jr., chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told the Senate Armed Services Committee.

"Obviously, we didn't want the Bridgeton to happen," he said, referring to the July 24 incident when the first reflagged Kuwaiti tanker hit a mine while it was being escorted by U.S. Navy warships.

He said the Navy "probably overrated our intelligence" about Iranian capabilities.

The Navy is now looking at ways to reduce the number of ships and men in the region, Crowe said, but he warned that it would be a "terrible error" for the Democratic-controlled Congress to order a U.S. withdrawal.

Crowe said the Pentagon is "groping as to what the long-term level of forces should be there. . . . We are looking at ways to draw down our forces to a more reasonable level."

He said about 10 U.S. ships are in the gulf itself and another 20 in nearby waters. It is

costing about \$20 million a month to carry out Reagan's program of reflagging 11 Kuwaiti tankers and using Navy convoys to protect their passage through the war-torn waterway.

Crowe spoke as the Senate was considering a Pentagon budget bill that Democrats want to use as the vehicle for a proposal that would halt the reflagging program within 90 days unless both the House and Senate approve it.

The amendment is backed by Democrats who complain that Reagan should have invoked the War Powers Act, the 1973 law that limits a president's authority to send troops to areas of "imminent hostilities."

Earlier Tuesday, the Senate voted 96-0 approval of an amendment to the bill praising the U.S. military personnel who took part in last week's attack on an Iranian ship caught laying mines.

The Senate also voted 98-0 approval of an amendment banning all U.S. imports from Iran. Minority leaders Bob Dole, R-Kan., the measure's sponsor, noted that in recent years, the United States has imported \$500 million to \$600 million worth of products annually from Iran.

## Vice president tours death camps at end of four-day visit to Poland

OSWIECIM, Poland — A somber Vice President George Bush on Tuesday toured Nazi concentration camps from World War II and expressed the hope that the children of the future "be spared the agony of this horrible past."

Both the vice president and his wife, Barbara, were visibly moved as their Polish guide, who was imprisoned at the Auschwitz camp for five years, explained how the Nazis systematically and sadistically gassed or shot their 4 million victims.

Walking together under threatening skies, the Bushes saw the small, dark cells where prisoners were left to die standing up, the gas chambers where millions of men and women were killed and the "Wall of Death" where victims were shot through the head.

"They're big on crematoriums. There's one over here, one over there," Bush said grimly as he walked past the crumbling ruins of the building where the Nazis burned bodies.

Bush, completing a four-day visit to Poland, placed a floral wreath at a stone memorial in nearby Birkenau. "Never again, The American people," was printed on a white ribbon attached to the wreath.

Signing a guest book, Bush quoted a saying, "In remembrance lies the secret of redemption."

At a news conference in Warsaw on Tuesday morning, Bush said he would report to President Reagan that the basis exists for "lasting, productive and mutually beneficial relations between our two countries."

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The Daily Nebraskan (USPS 144-080) is published by the UNL Publications Board Monday through Friday in the fall and spring semesters and Tuesdays and Fridays in the summer sessions, except during vacations. Subscription price is \$35 for one year. Postmaster: Send address changes to the Daily Nebraskan, Nebraska Union 34, 1400 R St., Lincoln, Neb. 68588-0448. Second-class postage paid at Lincoln, NE.

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