

Survey indicates nearly two-thirds of felony arrests don't lead to prison

WASHINGTON — Nearly two-thirds of the people arrested on felony charges in 11 states, including Nebraska, did not go to jail, according to a Justice Department survey released Sunday.

The survey by the Bureau of Justice Statistics of 532,000 felony arrests shows 84 percent led to prosecution and 62 percent brought convictions. Only 36 percent resulted in jail or prison terms. The survey covered felony cases resolved during 1984.

Convicted offenders who were not jailed received sentences such as probation, fines or mandatory community service, the bureau reported.

States surveyed accounted for about 37 percent of all reported crimes in the United States, said Steven R. Schlesinger, bureau director. Those states, which represent about 38 percent of the nation's population, were Alaska, California, Delaware, Geor-

gia, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Virginia.

"These statistics are not necessarily typical of felony cases in the rest of the country," Schlesinger cautioned. He said future surveys would cover more states and give a "clearer picture of what is happening nationwide."

The data is based on statistics provided by state governments, officials said. No identical statistics were available for comparison with previous.

The survey, "Tracking Offenders, 1984," also provided a breakdown between blacks and whites and covered the length of sentences for various levels crime.

It said about 63 percent of those arrested were white and 37 percent were black. Those classified as other races accounted for less than 1 percent of the reported crimes, the survey said.

Blacks were charged with 48 percent of the violent felonies in the survey and 35 percent of the drug cases. The highest rate of prosecutions, 90 percent, came in public-order felony cases, such as weapons violations, vice cases and parole violations; the lowest, 78 percent, was for drug offenses, the survey said.

It said that of those convicted of a violent felony, 36 percent did not go to jail, 31 percent were sentenced to one year or less in jail and 34 percent received sentences of longer than one year.

Felonies are typically crimes that carry sentences of one year or more in jail or prison, although state laws vary. Judges often reduce sentences depending on circumstances, and first-time offenders are often spared jail terms.

Mother charged as accessory in murder

COLUMBUS — The mother of Terry M. Kuntzelman, charged with first-degree murder in his wife's death, has been charged with being an accessory after the fact to first-degree murder, Columbus Police Chief David Purdy said.

Melba Kuntzelman was charged because authorities believe she withheld information that might have resolved the case, Purdy said.

"Because she (allegedly) withheld information, Terry was allowed to get away," he said.

Melba Kuntzelman was arrested

on the felony charge Friday night. She was later freed, Purdy said, but he did not know what bond arrangements were made.

The accessory charge carries a maximum sentence of five years in prison, a \$10,000 fine or both, Purdy said.

Authorities continue to search for the 29-year-old Kuntzelman, who is charged with first-degree murder. He was last seen Tuesday in Columbus. His wife's body was found in an appliance box in the couple's house Wednesday night.

There are no new clues to Kuntzelman's whereabouts and the leads authorities have are old, Purdy said.

"He could be anywhere by now," the chief said.

Police will seize records of Terry and Hazel Kuntzelman's bank accounts at two Columbus banks when they open Tuesday, Purdy said.

Knowing how much money Kuntzelman took from the accounts will help investigators estimate how long that money will last, Purdy said.

Sandinistas call support a 'historic error'

Ortega to take tough measures if aid to Contra rebels approved

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — President Daniel Ortega suggested Monday that his Sandinista government would take tough measures if the U.S. Congress approved new aid for the Contra rebels.

His comments came after the Sandinista government released seven opposition leaders Monday and he promised over the weekend to restore civil liberties. The Interior Ministry said the seven, arrested over the weekend, had been accused of plotting actions with the Contra rebels.

Ortega, in a rally in Ciudad Dario, 55 miles northeast of the capital, said approval of more U.S. aid to the rebels "would give the

Nicaraguan government a free hand to take the necessary measures to defend the sovereignty, self-determination and independence of our country."

He did not provide details, but said more aid would be "a historic error by the United States and the American Congress."

The White House said Sunday that President Reagan will request more aid for the rebels despite Ortega's announcements.

The administration had postponed plans to ask Congress for \$270 million for an 18-month period for the Contras when congressmen said it would interfere

with a regional peace plan.

Ortega announced the talks and restoration of civil liberties Saturday in a meeting with the presidents of El Salvador, Costa Rica, Guatemala and Honduras to discuss the peace plan.

Nicaragua's state of emergency, first declared in March 1982, suspends the right to demonstrate, strike, move about the country freely and receive a speedy trial. It also allows police to make arrests without a court order.

The Sandinistas earlier had said they would lift the state of emergency only when the United States halted aid to the Contras.

State Department official dismisses Ortega peace concessions as ploys

WASHINGTON — A top State Department official dismissed on Monday peace concessions by Nicaragua's leftist government as a ploy to defeat an upcoming congressional vote on additional aid to the Contra rebels.

But Nicaragua's vice president said any renewal of U.S. aid to the Contras could "kill the peace process" in Central America.

Even though Monday was a federal holiday, high-level meetings were being held as officials sought to assess the latest developments and to determine how much additional assistance for the Contras should be sought.

Assistant Secretary of State Elliott Abrams said Nicaraguan

officials cannot be trusted to implement the promises they made during the weekend summit meeting of Central American leaders in Costa Rica.

"They could have done this anytime over the last eight years," Abrams said. "Two weeks before the vote on Capitol Hill, they make more promises. It seems very clear the purpose is to win that vote."

To the extent that Nicaragua has shown an interest in a negotiated settlement, it is the result of military pressure applied by the Contras, Abrams said, suggesting that ending Contra aid would give the Sandinistas no incentive to continue the peace process.

The administration will make a

formal request to the Congress for more aid on Jan. 26. Both the amount and the time frame for the aid are still undecided, according to administration officials. A House vote is set for Feb. 3 and the Senate will follow on Feb. 4.

Nicaraguan Vice President Sergio Ramirez acknowledged Monday that the new steps announced Saturday night by President Daniel Ortega were aimed partly at influencing the Congress to reflect more Contra aid.

"I think it is a legitimate thing to try to influence the criterion of the Congress of the United States to try to stop the war in Central America," Ramirez said.

In Brief

Leader of army rebellion surrenders in Argentina

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina — About 2,000 loyal soldiers stormed an army compound Monday and forced the surrender of a rebel colonel who had held the camp for three days with the support of 100 followers, officials reported.

The surrender after a three-hour battle at the Monte Caseros camp in northeastern Argentina ended a military crisis that began when Lt. Col. Alco Rico, who also led a rebellion last April, escaped from house arrest Friday shortly before he was to be taken to prison.

Rico, 43, turned himself over to the loyalist troops of the Third Infantry Brigade, said Gen. Humberto Ferrucci, commander of the Fifth Army Corps.

Jose Ignacio Lopez, spokesman for President Raul Alfonsin, said Rico was put in the custody of Gen. Ramon Madragana in Regiment 4, the unit in which he led the rebellion.

Police try to re-establish contact with polygamists

MARION, Utah — More than 150 officers wearing fatigues and packing automatic weapons ringed the compound of a slain rebel polygamist Monday as 14 relatives, including a suspect in a church bombing, holed up for a third day awaiting his "resurrection."

Relatives and authorities said Addam Swapp and 13 family members, including six children, were armed as they waited in a log house belonging to Vickie Singer. Singer was one of two widows left by John Singer when he was gunned down by police nine years ago Monday.

Officers surrounded the homestead early Saturday after an explosion ripped through the Mormon church's Marion Stake Center a half mile away, causing an estimated \$1 million damage.

"We just want to talk to them as possible suspects in this case," said FBI Special Agent Cal Clegg. "The reason we don't walk away is that there is a fear in the community, and if they indeed did this, then their concerns are legitimate."

Du Pont denies top aide involved in forgery

HOUSTON — Republican Pete du Pont's campaign denied charges on Monday that a top aide authorized primary ballot petition forgeries in Texas, as other presidential candidates took advantage of the Martin Luther King holiday to meet crowds paying tribute to the slain civil rights leader.

Democrat Gary Hart walked the streets of King's hometown of Albany, Ga., and Vice President George Bush joined 200 youngsters in King day ceremonies at a grade school in Des Moines, Iowa.

In Texas, the father of a fired du Pont campaign worker implicated the candidate's national political director, Tim Hyde, in the scandal over the forgery of signatures on petitions to place du Pont's name on the primary ballot. The father, Guy Robertson, told The Houston Post he had a tape recording linking Hyde to the forgeries although Robertson refused to turn it over to the newspaper.

Bob Kerrey says Liz Karnes letter contains untruths

Former Gov. Bob Kerrey denied an allegation by the wife of Sen. David Karnes that Kerrey was recruited by liberal Democrats to topple her Republican husband in the 1988 U.S. Senate race.

In a letter to the Omaha World Herald, Kerrey said he was responding to a fund-raising letter sent by Liz Karnes to 18,500 Nebraskans because he was mentioned in it eight times.

He said his letter was seeking "to defend against the unfair and untrue things said in her fund-raising appeal."

"At first, the form of the letter and some of the things said in it caused me to wonder if even Liz was aware of its contents," Kerrey wrote.

In her letter, Mrs. Karnes wrote: "The same liberal Democrats... have targeted him (Karnes) for defeat and they have recruited Bob Kerrey."

Kerrey said he was encouraged to run by many Nebraskans. "The decision to become a candidate was mine," he said.

Difference in fat found

NEW ORLEANS — Newly discovered differences in the fat cells of men and women may help explain why men often have pot bellies while women are more likely to have big hips and thighs, a researcher said Monday.

Studies conducted at Rockefeller University in New York found differences between the sexes in both the makeup and number of these cells.

They show that typically, women have more fat cells than men do in their thighs, hips and bottoms. But the fat cells in men's bellies are more likely than women's to accumulate fat.

Learning how to tinker with the biological controls that rule how fat cells take in and give up their cargo could open new ways for making people slim and healthy.

The latest research, conducted by Dr. Rudolph L. Leibel, was presented at a meeting of the American Heart Association.

Correction

Libertarian Presidential candidate Ron Paul was scheduled to speak at the Common Place, not the Centennial Ballroom (DN, Jan 18). The DN regrets the error.

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The Daily Nebraskan (USPS 144-080) is published by the UNI Publications Board, Nebraska Union 34, 1400 R St., Lincoln, Neb. 68588-0448, weekdays during academic year (except holidays); weekly during the summer session.

Readers are encouraged to submit story ideas and comments to the Daily Nebraskan by phoning 472-1763 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. The public also has access to the Publications Board. For information, contact Don Johnson, 472-3611.

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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