

Ortega suspends cease-fire

WASHINGTON -- The White House on Wednesday denounced Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega's decision to end a truce with the U.S.-backed Contras but brushed off talk about renewing military aid for the rebels, saying "we don't want to give him any excuse" to cancel next year's elections.

The administration said President George Bush was consulting with leaders in Central America to bring diplomatic pressure on Ortega to reverse course.

"It is obvious that he's afraid of the ballot box," White House press secretary Marlin Fitzwater said, referring to presidential elections set for Feb. 25 in Nicaragua.

Congressional leaders also reacted angrily to Ortega's move, but House Speaker Thomas S. Foley, D-Wash., said, "I can't conceive of the House moving now toward providing military assistance. That's not in the direction of the peace process."

Costa Rican President Oscar Arias, who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1987 for spearheading efforts for a regional peace accord, said in an interview on the Cable News Network, "It's, indeed, very sad to go back to the military fight."

Ortega, at a news conference in

Managua, suspended the 19-month-old cease-fire with the Contras, citing continued rebel attacks, and hinted he might cancel the elections. He accused Bush of "supporting terrorism in Nicaragua."

He added, "Now it will depend on the Yankee Congress and the Yankee president that these elections take place on Feb. 25." Later, Alejandro Bendana, secretary general of the Foreign Ministry, said Nicaragua has no plans to cancel the elections.

Responding quickly to Ortega, Fitzwater said his announcement "underscores the Sandinista regime's lack of commitment to the peace process and democratization in Nicaragua. His deplorable action... is an affront to the hemisphere and the democratic traditions we hold so important."

State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said the United States wants the Contras, too, to honor the cease-fire and will cut off U.S. humanitarian assistance to rebel forces that engage in offensive operations.

However, he said Ortega's Sandinista army "has violated the cease-fire from the day it was imposed. It has conducted regular offensive sweeps against the resis-

tance, resulting in over 100 killed in the last five months."

Boucher added, "In recent days, we've seen the Sandinista-sponsored thugs attack peaceful political rallies by the Democratic opposition."

A senior administration official said that while the United States wants the Contras to continue honoring the truce, "Obviously you cannot tell people not to defend themselves. We are hoping the Sandinistas will reconsider."

The official, insisting on anonymity, said Ortega might not resume the fighting.

House votes for \$4.25 minimum wage hike

WASHINGTON -- The House voted overwhelmingly Wednesday to raise the hourly minimum wage from \$3.35 to \$4.25 by April 1991 and create a new, lower wage for teen-agers with less than six months work experience.

The 382-37 vote on the compromise struck between President George Bush and congressional Democrats sends the measure to the Senate, where leaders have promised to pass it before Thanksgiving.



Performance artist shocks

BOSTON -- Practitioners of shock art have danced barefoot on glass and bitten the heads off live animals, but as one of them faces possible arrest for lighting fireworks on his chest the question of how much is too much is being asked more than ever.

The limit, however, is "when people are placed without knowledge in a position of danger themselves," he said. "Whether that

can be classified as art or not, it's inappropriate."

Joe Coleman may have provided the acid test in Boston.

Coleman, who appeared before a small audience at the Boston Film and Video Foundation, bit off the head and front legs of a white mouse and hugged one spectator after he poured a bucket of blood over himself.

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letes because they would stop students from making up for bad grades by taking summer classes.

Her desire to examine the effects of the new academic standards led to her investigation of student athletes' records, she said.

Visser said she used spare time, probably about two hours a day, to access athletes' academic records on her computer and made a chart in a red notebook of their grades.

She never made a student's record public to anyone outside the university, she said.

"It did not appear to me out of my line of duty at all to do what I was doing," she said.

Visser said she always got good performance evaluations. Her first criticism by a supervisor was in January 1988 when Gregory wrote a memo saying she was late too often, had too many personal visits and phone calls and held too many closed-door sessions.

Visser responded the next day that she was not late or did not have any more personal business at work than the other advisers. Visser said she did reduce the amount of personal business conducted at work.

On March 30, Gregory sent Visser another memo about her absences, personal conferences and phone calls and closed-door sessions.

"I was totally surprised," Visser said. "I felt I had corrected that."

Visser said she asked Gregory for a specific instance of his allegations, and he cited the time she left for 30 minutes to pick up her daughter. Visser said she left on her coffee break to pick up her sick daughter, who had a high fever and no transportation home.

Visser responded to Gregory's memo by sending a memo to all general studies employees recounting Gregory's personal activities at work.

"I am very offended by your language and sick jokes... and sexist language," the memo said. Visser said this was not intended to question Gregory's authority.

Visser said she asked Gregory in May 1988 if her work problems had been corrected, and he said they had.

She said she found the atmosphere in the general studies office different after this memo. As a result, she said, she experienced stress overload and took sick leave.

University attorney David Buntain asked Visser in cross-examination if she told a co-worker she was "going to get" Gregory following his criti-

cism. Visser responded that she had made such a comment, but in a whisper.

In April, Visser wrote a letter to Brad Munn, affirmative action officer at UNL, about sexist comments made in the office. Munn wrote a response in which he said, "You are a very brave person to battle what appear to be ongoing problems."

Visser testified that she filed a sexual discrimination suit, which was investigated and then dismissed. She also filed a grievance with Gregory, which also was dismissed.

In front of the grievance committee, Visser said, she raised the issue of athletic concerns as a reason for her treatment. The attorney investigating her sexual discrimination suit also received a letter from Gregory in which he objected to interviewing people about the athletic irregularities.

Visser testified that she got a letter in April 1988 from Gregory asking her to meet with him when she returned from sick leave. On May 13, she learned that she would be placed on probation starting May 17.

On May 16 she met with Griesen, she said, and he asked her to stop her report comparing old and new academic standards and to stop accessing athletes' records unless they were her advisees.

She said that after that meeting, she didn't access any records except those that came to her under normal working conditions.

At the May 17 meeting, Visser said, she asked Griesen to outline the reasons for her probation in writing, which is university policy. He did not do this, she said.

On June 17, after a lunch meeting between Gregory, NU football coach Tom Osborne, Griesen and other NU sports officials, Gregory reprimanded Visser because of the advice she gave Douglas Steven Zatechka, Jr., a pre-med student.

Visser had advised Zatechka to take science and math classes, she said. This was contrary to advice given him by Gregory, who told Zatechka to take science and English courses, she said.

Visser said she didn't understand Gregory's advice because most pre-med students are advised to take science and math.

Gregory was "very angry" when he reprimanded her, Visser said. She filed a complaint with Griesen, but did not get a response until a pre-termination letter she received July 27 while she was at home on sick leave.

The pre-termination letter criticized her work performance and said

she had been unethical when she advised another student, Bridget Heimes.

Heimes, Visser said, was a student who once had high grades but had since been expelled after three semesters of academic probation.

After her expulsion, Heimes told Visser that she was attending classes, Visser said. Heimes was getting A's in the classes and Visser advised her to continue attending class while she appealed her dismissal, Visser said.

Heimes' appeal was granted, Visser said. This is the advice she would give all students in a similar situation, she said.

In the pre-termination letter, Visser said, she was told her salary would be cut and her office space used unless she came back to work before her termination. Visser came back to work and wrote Gregory a memo saying she wanted to work to create a positive atmosphere in the general studies office.

Gregory never responded, Visser said, and she was called to Griesen's office two days later, Aug. 26, 1988. She said she was accused of creating office disharmony and sharing other job opportunities with co-workers.

She then got a letter from Griesen notifying her she would be fired effective Sept. 2. Visser filed another grievance with Gregory and a discrimination charge with the Nebraska Equal Employment Commission.

"I felt my termination was unjust." Her grievance was denied.

She received a right-to-sue letter from the Department of Justice Nov. 11, which led to her lawsuit against the regents, Gregory and Griesen.

Wagner and Griesen are scheduled to take the stand today. Visser's attorney, Thom Cope, said the students Visser advised will take the stand in her defense.



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