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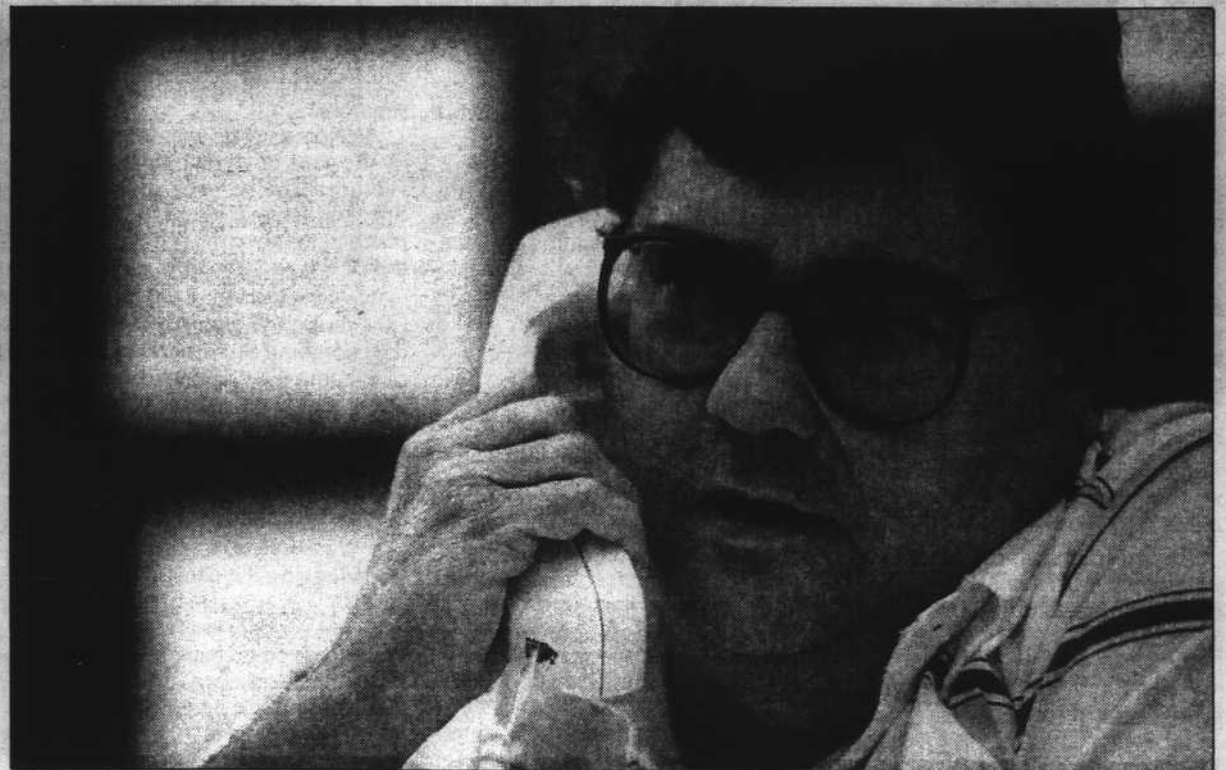
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Travis Heying/DN

Lincoln attorney John DeCamp speaks by phone with the head of the Montana Militia. DeCamp represented the right-wing group when they were charged with numerous felonies last year.

**FBI questions Lincoln lawyer**

By **Jeff Zeleny**  
 Editor  
**and Brian Sharp**  
 Senior Reporter

John DeCamp, a Lincoln lawyer and former Nebraska state senator, was questioned this week by the FBI about his knowledge of militias in the United States.

DeCamp, who represents the Militia of Montana in First Amendment freedom cases, said his familiarity with the group was the subject of a two-hour discussion with FBI agents on Monday.

Authorities are investigating a connection between suspects in the Oklahoma City bombing and the Michigan Militia.

"Obviously as a result of that, and because of my representation of a number of other interesting folks across the United States, an incident like this happens and I may have some information of value," DeCamp said.

DeCamp was a state senator from 1971 to 1986. He made unsuccessful bids for state attorney general in 1990

and governor in 1994.

Militia groups across the country have been the focus of investigations from the government and the media. The Militia of Montana is among the most visible and most extreme groups in the country.

Robert Benford, an associate sociology professor at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln who studies social protest groups, cautioned against conclusions that tied the bombing to any social movement.

Although suspects in the Oklahoma City bombing were tied to paramilitary groups, he said, it is unclear if their alleged action was influenced by the groups.

"The place to look for understanding of this tragedy is within our own culture," Benford said, "rather than something on the fringes of our culture."

Randy Trochmann, a co-founder of the Montana militia said his group condemned the Oklahoma bombing. The group's purpose is to inform America of the corruption in government, he said, and to get people politically involved.

"We've seen that take place last November," he said. "Were it not for the American patriot militia organizations that have popped up across the nation, the newcomers on the (Capitol) Hill wouldn't be there."

Benford said mainstream culture was becoming increasingly violent. Survivalist and apocalyptic groups play on that violence and are nothing new to the Midwest.

Benford pointed to radicals such as the Posse Comitatus; another cult-group in southeastern Nebraska; and the recent arrest of neo-Nazi Gary Lauck, a former Lincoln resident.

"We're searching around right now with very little information," Benford said. "People are pointing fingers and trying to affix blame."

"We need to be very thoughtful in how we react."

Increasing government access into private lives and infringements on civil liberties only reinforce the message these groups preach, he said.

"We don't want to play right into their hands and confirm their prophecies," Benford said. "We have to realize how fluid this is."

**Musician prevents alleged stabbing**

From Staff Reports

A downtown guitar player saved a Lincoln man from being stabbed Tuesday night, police said.

Jon Gates was at the corner of 14th and O streets talking to Jon "Guitarman" Davis when Gates was approached by a panhandler, police reported.

Kevin Runningbear, a transient, asked Gates for 50 cents. When Gates said no, Runningbear pulled a white-handled knife and lunged at him, police said.

Davis saw the knife and shoved Gates out of the way, evading the alleged attack. Gates ran north 20 yards on 14th Street with Runningbear chasing behind, police said.

Davis, meanwhile, called police, who stopped Runningbear on O Street between 13th and 14th streets. Runningbear refused police requests to take his hands from his pockets.

Police subdued Runningbear with pepper spray. Police discovered the concealed knife on Runningbear and took him into custody.



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