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Clinton faces vacant posts within Cabinet

By RON FOURNIER
Associated Press

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP) — Defense Secretary William Perry and Secretary of State Warren Christopher have told President Clinton that they will resign, administration and military officials said Wednesday, leaving the re-elected president with vacancies in two of the Cabinet's most prestigious posts.

Also about to depart are Commerce Secretary Mickey Kantor and Energy Secretary Hazel O'Leary, officials said.

Christopher informed Clinton of his decision Tuesday night in Little Rock, Ark., as election returns were showing the president had won a second term. The 71-year-old Christopher's four years as secretary of state have been dominated by fighting in Bosnia and efforts to forge peace in the Middle East, and a preference for low-key persuasion.

Perry, 69, rose from the No. 2 job at the Pentagon after the resignation of Clinton's initial choice for the job, former Rep. Les Aspin, D-Wis. Perry said he would stay on until a replacement is found.

Please see VACANCIES on 2

Armed man robs West Gate Bank; crime is on tape

From Staff Reports

A man armed with a handgun robbed a bank in north Lincoln Wednesday morning.

A man entered West Gate Bank, 2662 Cornhusker Highway, at 11 a.m., stepped up to a teller, showed her a handgun and quietly demanded money, Lincoln police Sgt. Ann Heermann said.

The teller gave him an undisclosed amount of cash, Heermann said. The suspect left the bank and walked north toward Super Saver supermarket, Heermann said.

He was described as a white man in his early 30s with blond hair. He has a medium build and is about 5 feet 10 inches tall.

Witnesses said the robber was wearing sunglasses, a blue baseball cap, a black leather jacket and bluejeans.

The bank is equipped with a surveillance system, which captured the robbery on camera.

Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. policy prohibits bank employees from speaking to the media about robberies.



SCOTT BRUHN/DN

CHUCK HAGEL, holding his daughter, Allyn, waves to the crowd at his victory party in Omaha Tuesday night as his wife, Lilibet, looks on. Hagel beat Gov. Ben Nelson in 87 of Nebraska's 93 counties in Tuesday's senatorial election.

All but six counties vote Hagel

Hagel takes majority in Douglas County but narrowly loses Lancaster County and five others to Nelson.

By MATTHEW WAITE
Senior Reporter

Republican Chuck Hagel's win in Nebraska's senatorial race was so sound Tuesday night he even took Democratic Gov. Ben Nelson's home county.

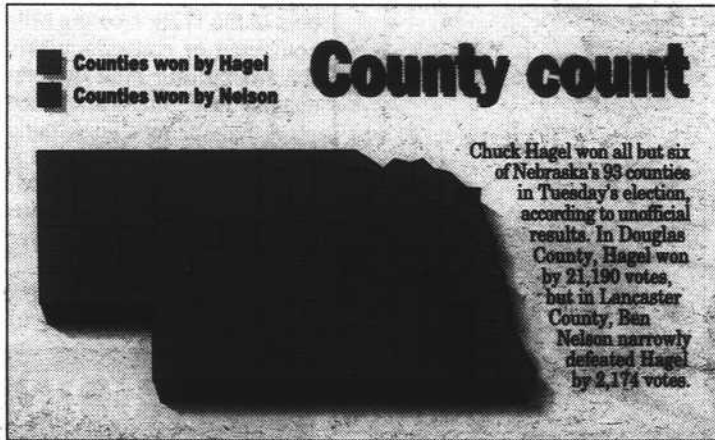
Unofficial election returns show that Hagel took all but six of Nebraska's 93 counties en route to a 15-point rout of Nelson. One of those counties was Red Willow, which is home to McCook, Nelson's birthplace.

Even the counties that Nelson did take from Hagel were won by narrow margins. Returns from many western Nebraska counties favored Hagel by a 70-30 margin.

Hagel is the first Republican senator to be elected in Nebraska since Carl Curtis in 1972. In 1988, Republican David Karnes, who was appointed by then-Gov. Kay Orr, failed to win re-election, losing to Democratic challenger Bob Kerrey.

In the aftermath of Tuesday night's victory party, Hagel spokeswoman Deb Fiddelke said Wednesday that Hagel did not write off one county in the race. She said, however, that the campaign had to target the voter-rich counties to win.

Fiddelke said the Hagel campaign's strategy was to at least stay close in Douglas and Lancaster counties and win big in the west, a Republican stronghold.



AARON STECKELBERG/DN

But, she said, they really wanted to run up the score in Douglas and Lancaster counties.

"We wanted to win decisively (in Douglas County) and we did," Fiddelke said. In Lancaster County, a county no Republican senatorial candidate has won in decades, she said Hagel came closer than any candidate in recent memory.

By unofficial results, in Douglas County, Hagel won 56 percent to Nelson's 44 percent, a difference of 21,190 votes. In Lancaster County, Hagel lost with 49 percent to Nelson's 51 percent, a difference of 2,174 votes.

Fiddelke said Hagel had a campaign organization in every county

Please see HAGEL on 3

Union's temporary entrance first part of reconstruction

By KASEY KERBER
Senior Reporter

The expansion of the Nebraska Union is underway — and its director says the building will undergo a wave of changes before the project's completion in July 1998.

Daryl Swanson said changes related to the expansion would be made in steps over the next year and a half.

One change will be the addition of a new temporary entrance to the union.

A construction crew has already started work on the temporary en-

trance, which will be on the west side of the union building, Swanson said. It will replace the north entrance.

Swanson said the new west entrance would not have the appearance of a temporary entrance.

"The entrance will have awnings and be very well lit," Swanson said. "It will be built with a solid concrete and steel construction."

The new entrance also will include stairs that lead down to the University Bookstore and a wheelchair ramp and lift that meet government regulations.

Swanson said there was some concern that restaurants in the food court

will be hurt by a loss of visibility when the new entrance is built.

Visitors to the union who enter through the west entrance will have an impaired view of the food court and be farther from it.

The concern is that visitors might go to restaurants on O Street instead.

But Swanson said he did not expect the new entrance to hurt the food court restaurants, because students are familiar with the food court and would keep business strong.

George Gregg, administrative assistant for Subway, agreed.

"There will be some loss of busi-

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GEORGE GREGG
Subway administrative assistant

ness, but that happens with any construction project," Gregg said.

Gregg said the temporary loss would be worth the inconvenience if a new union brings more customers.

North-entrance construction also will cover the entire union plaza with equipment and building materials.

Swanson said construction crews could move into the plaza by Dec. 9.