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Republicans treat Bush to show of unity

by GLEN MATHISON
News-Gazette Staff Writer

SPRINGFIELD — Vice President George Bush revelled in the glow of Illinois Republican unity Saturday, topping off a state convention where political differences were kept under wraps.

Bush said he will win the presidency with Republican unity. Convention organizers made sure he got it, with calls for harmony in speeches and during the business of the convention.

Differences were put to rest quietly in committees. Sen. Bob Dole, R-Kan., Bush's top rival in the primary campaign, closed the three-day convention urging the group to put aside "petty things."

The drive for unity extended even to placards. The leader of an anti-tax campaign, Quad Cities activist Dan Scaff, was escorted away by security guards when he tried to distribute protest signs.

A few of the signs — which read "Thanks Mr. Bush for saying No to Taxes. Please tell our governor" — made it to the convention floor anyway.

GOV. JAMES THOMPSON is urging the Legislature to hike the state's income tax rates by 40 percent.

But Thompson, who is chairman of Bush's Illinois campaign and a potential running mate for the vice president, made no mention of taxes Saturday. Neither did the vice president.

Introducing Bush to a packed crowd at the Prairie Capital Convention Center, Thompson said Illinois would carry the all-but-certain GOP nominee to the White House this fall.

"I am very proud of the fact those in the party who supported another candidate responded to us quickly — to unite the Republican family of Illinois," Thompson said. "We're going to be the state that puts the Bush ticket over in the presidential campaign."

In his half-hour speech, Bush accused probable Democratic nominee Michael Dukakis of being weak on crime and insincere about combating the illegal drug trade.

BUSH SAID THE CONTEST with Dukakis, the governor of Massachusetts, offers a choice of "two fundamentally different visions."

A clear example of that difference, Bush said, will be in their visions of a war on drugs.

"Lately our opponents have adopted some get-tough rhetoric on drugs," Bush said. "They're still short on substance."

"We support zero tolerance," the vice president added, promising tougher penalties for drug pushers and capital punishment for drug dealers convicted of murder.

However, Bush saved his fiercest attack for a Dukakis policy that the vice president claims allowed convicted murderers in Massachusetts out of jail on weekends.

"We have a right to know why Michael Dukakis thinks first-degree murderers should be furloughed," Bush said. "I think that Gov. Dukakis owes the people of America an explanation."

On hand with Bush were Lt. Gov. George Ryan, Secretary of State Jim Edgar, House Minority Leader Lee Daniels, Senate Minority Leader James

(See BUSH, A-7)

Summit split brews over ag subsidies

TORONTO (AP) — World leaders went out of their way to stress international cooperation Saturday on the eve of the seven-nation economic summit, but a contentious fight over agricultural subsidies threatened to disrupt the hoped-for tranquillity.

The 14th annual meeting between the world's largest industrial countries — the United States, Japan, West Germany, Britain, France, Italy and Canada — was being held under the tightest security ever seen in Canada's largest city.

A 1,000-member security force was deployed throughout the Metropolitan Toronto Convention Center, where the government leaders will begin meeting Sunday, protected by 13-foot high chain link security fences.

This year's summit is expected to be a low-key gathering, in part because President Reagan is in his last year with only seven months left in office but also because the economy is doing surprisingly well, especially in light of the fears of a global recession that were widespread immediately following the October stock market crash.

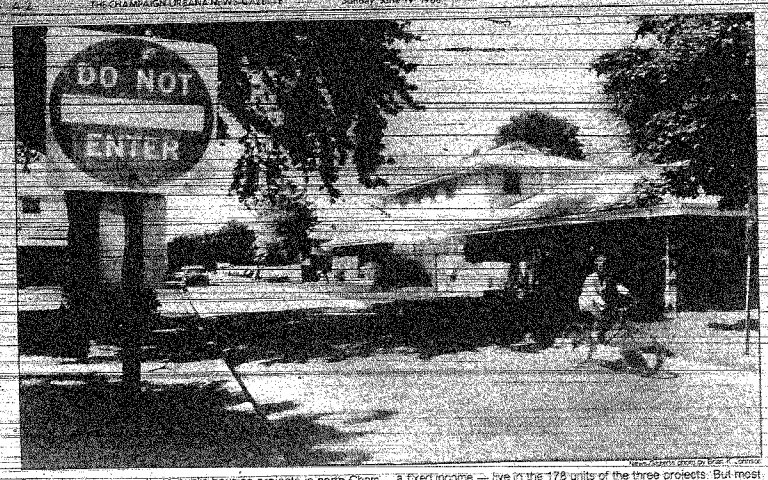
Growth in most of the major countries has accelerated this year, driving down unemployment rates to the lowest levels of this decade.

Reagan, who is attending his eighth and final economic summit will be the last world leader to arrive on Sunday.

The president said Saturday that efforts to stop illegal drug trafficking and rebuild the economies of Afghanistan and the Philippines also would be on the agenda for the summit as would his proposal, first made last year at the Venice summit, to cut farm subsidies by the end of the century.

But Reagan's farm proposal has drown support from some of the other leaders, with Japan, West Germany and France retaining some of the strongest objections.

West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl warned in a speech to the Canadian Parliament earlier in the week that leaders must act moved quickly on the farm question. Jacques Delors, who represents the European Economic Community at the summit, complained that the EC position on farm subsidies threatened to "spoil the atmosphere" of the talks.



Dutch Village is among three public housing projects in north Champaign, run by the Housing Authority of Champaign County. More than 400 people — 99 percent of whom are black and unemployed or on a fixed income — live in the 178 units of the three projects. But most residents don't live there by choice, according to Alma Wilkerson, president of the Bradley-McKinley Tenants Council.

News-Sports photo by Brad F. Comer

North End

(Continued from A-1)

Marijuana and other "cocaine ... were much more prevalent today," Quand said. "And the people deal for money. In many ways, the profit is high."

Although North End teenagers purchase marijuana and cocaine, Quand said the frequent buyers are the 20- to 30-year-olds.

"They're looked on as for one thing," Quand said. "Maybe they've been into it longer. It's a way of life for them now."

Like so the police are aware of the drug trafficking in the North End — to a degree.

The Rev. Claude Shelby, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, 500 E. Perkins, Champaign, said drug dealers in the North End have worked in the last few years.

"I saw very a deterioration of these areas," said Shelby, who added that 80 percent of the church's 400 members live in northeast Champaign.

"We have to educate our people to stay away from drugs," said Shelby. "I think our officials and government is work harder to stop drugs from entering."

But drugs aren't the only problem facing residents of the North End, Shelby admitted.

"There's a considerable amount of poverty," he said.

ACCORDING TO THE 1980 census, of 1,411 people live in Champaign, Bradley, 1,000 of them are black and more than 2,000 of the black live in the North End.

Both of the northeast side blocks contain adults only 11.2 of them had a four-year college degree, about 44% of them graduated high school, 10% had completed eighth grade and 11% had only a fourth-grade education.

The average income in that area was $12,476, compared with $22,923 in other Champaign neighborhoods. More than 325 North End families live below the poverty level.

Of the 2,226 North End residents over the age of 16, roughly 1,000 of them were unemployed.

Those with jobs tend to work in sales, clerical housekeeping jobs, out of machine operation and to a lesser extent, professional or managerial jobs.

But perhaps the most wrenched statistics facing North End residents is housing.

Fifty years ago, the area was "ravaged for nearly" land-shaped homes along shady streets. That's since been replaced with trash lined streets, dilapidated houses and stores of government-owned housing projects.

The truth, residents say is that Champaign's North End has become a reflection of the slums of big cities like Chicago and East St. Louis.

The Census found that the average value of a northeast-side home was $27,109 to $31,769 — less than two-thirds of the cost of homes in other Champaign neighborhoods.

Three public housing projects run by the Housing Authority of Champaign County sit in north Champaign — Bradley-McKinley, Dutch Village and Dunbar Court. More than 400 people — 99 percent of whom are black and unemployed or on a fixed income — live in the 178 units, according to housing authority director David Murrell.

MOST RESIDENTS don't live there by choice, though, said Alma Wilkerson, president of the Bradley-McKinley Tenants Council.

The council was created in 1986 to address the problems facing low-income residents.

"I never wanted to move out here in the first place," said Wilkerson, who has six children. "This is a trap. Once you get here, you can't get out."

Wilkerson moved to Bradley-McKinley nearly 10 years ago because she was ill, unemployed and had no place else to go.

"I'd like to move, but how can I?" she asked. "I can hardly make it here."

Ann Newberry moved into Dutch Village eight years ago. She had to move into public housing because the home she rented was sold.

"I needed a place right then," recalled Newberry, who pays $26 a month for a two-bedroom apartment.

Tenants complain that some of the apartments aren't fit to live in. The ceilings in several apartments are caving in, lately peeling up and run over onto the floors, snow and icy winds blow through the gaps in windows. Stairs are crumbling apart from the wall and in one apartment, a tenant complained of ghosts and squirrels under her sink.

"WE'RE ALWAYS arguing about these raggedy houses," said Wilkerson "Also they's housing authority always say they're going to fix them."

In addition, garbage piles up for days at a time, which attracts rodents. And there are no wheelchair ramps for the handicapped, Newberry said.

They (housing authority) don't care about their elderly residents' safety, Newberry added. "What do they care? These are black people living out here."

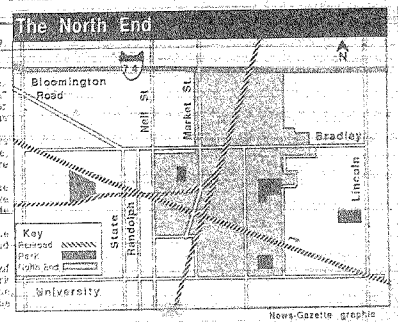
But Murrell said the housing authority has assigned a state manager to look after the tenants' needs. We know they've (managers) helped tenants with their problems," he said.

Murrell said the improvements are needed however, and vowed that the housing authority will make the repairs.

There are some cosmetic and weatherizing improvements needed, he said. "The housing authority has really never done anything comprehensive."

The housing authority has applied for up to $8.9 million in federal rehabilitation funds but has not heard a verdict on its application.

Monday: The History of the North End



News-Gazette graphic

UI professor warns plants, trees need weekly drenching

BY CAM SIMPSON
News-Gazette Staff Writer

Martin Carbonneau has only three words of advice for homeowners with plants threatened by hot, dry spring's drought.

"Water, water, water," he said.

The University of Illinois horticulture professor said most people just don't realize that plants are made up of 60 to 80 percent water and without a good amount of it, there will be permanent damage.

Plants of all types — especially popular garden flowers and veggie tables — are quickly drying out in the area. Soil moisture levels are between 5 and 6 inches below what they should be for this time of year in Champaign County according to the Illinois State Water Survey.

Because younger and smaller plants have underdeveloped root systems, Carbonneau says they're more prone to permanent damage when the summer heat is on.

When you have plants with underdeveloped root systems and there's low soil-moisture levels, "the plants won't be getting a thing in the way of water," Carbonneau said. "It (water reserves in the soil) is just too deep for these smaller and weaker roots to get at."

So what's the answer? Carbonneau says gardeners need to soak their plants and trees with 1 to 1½ inches of water each week.

HE SAID HOMEOWNERS shouldn't just put a little bit of water on their plants at a time. He recommends putting it all on at once.

"That little drickley doesn't do a thing," he said. "If there's just a little water at a time, chances are it won't get to where it needs to go."

He says to measure the amount of water used, place a coffee can — with inch markings written on the inside in waterproof ink — in the same area as the plants. Turn on the sprinkler and check the can to find out when the proper amount of make-shift rain has fallen.

And for homeowners with brown lawns? No need to worry, he said. "Most of them will come back, but they still need some water," he said.

Despite appearances, plants are in much worse shape than the lawns Carbonneau said.

But officials in several area communities — including Philo, Fithian, St. Joseph, Monticello and Mahomet — already have restricted or at least are requesting that home owners restrict their water usage.

The best time to water is the early morning, he said. That "way plants will have the rest of the day to dry off. But 'stay' away from watering at night. That could lead to disease but it would be worse than having no water at all.

THE FOLLOWING is more advice from Carbonneau on things to be mindful of during the drought:

■ Anything that is newly planted needs special care during the drought. Make sure the plants are especially well-watered.

■ If any plants or trees appear to be wilting or looking limp before 9 or 10 a.m., water them right away.

■ Despite early morning watering guidelines, if something is heavily wilted in the afternoon, get water on it right away. Chances are it desperately needs water. Once a plant has severely wilted, irreparable damage probably has already been done.

■ Trees and shrubs that should be watched closely include evergreens, flowering bushes and any small shrubbery. When watering them, it's best to just let water run slowly on the surface within what's known as the "dripline." That means the area in which the roots are concentrated.

■ Watch out for overwatering. Some plants can be almost as easily damaged by too much water as they can be by too little.

■ Don't soak lawns to the point where there's standing water. This also can cause damage.

■ As soon as the drought breaks, give plants and trees a "good fertilizing."

But Carbonneau warns, "Don't push growth too much. When we have a year like this, it's best to just try and maintain things."

Problem needs church concern, minister says

The Rev. Phillip Wright's prayers were answered when the drug dealers across the street from his Vine Street church moved out a week ago.

But even though there is one less "drug house" on the North End, Wright said the problem still exists. And it won't go away until the neighborhood and churches work together.

Wright reported the drug dealing to Detective Charles Deakin of the Champaign County Interagency Task Force — a unit with officers from several police departments — and Deakin confirmed that operators were "dealing a little bit of everything," including marijuana, cocaine and heroin. But there were never any arrests at the drug house.

The churches aren't doing anything," said Wright, pastor of the Sheriff Temple Apostolic Overcoming Holy Church of God, 601 E. Vine St. "I have not seen one other church that has shown their concern by stepping out and doing anything."

WRIGHT ORGANIZED a North End anti-drug rally and parade May 21 to urge residents to turn to God instead of drugs.

"It was right for us to take our message to the streets," he said. "We're trying to do something to better our community and our young people.

"If we lose our young people to drugs, we're losing our leaders of tomorrow."

The event drew the support of city officials, neighborhood groups and residents, but no churches.

More than 30 letters asking for support were sent to Champaign area churches, but none offered support, Wright said.

What hurt me so bad is that not one of the churches participated," Wright said. "Every church include the some of the white churches knew about it."

Without the help of the entire community, Wright said, the North End will die.

"IT'S OUR DUTY to try and bring the awareness to the people," he said. "It's not just damaging to an individual, it's damaging to the entire community.

"If you don't fight this problem today, tomorrow it's going to strike you. It may strike at you even be larger."

The North End has traditionally been the place where much of the city's drug dealing occurs, Wright said. But it's only within the last few years that the drug trade has become so open, he said.

"We didn't have the problems with drugs in the community the way we do now," said Wright, who now lives in Urbana, but lived in the North End from 1982 to 1987. "If there were drugs, you didn't know it. You didn't see it. Now they've become much more visible because of the demand."

It's going to take a concerted effort by every individual who wants the neighborhood or community to be the best," he said. "It can happen."

CHERYL THOMPSON

Drought

(Continued from A-1)

make monthly payments on loans too, he said.

Handler said the country's agricultural base structure, already weakened by farm economy problems earlier this decade, could take another hit when farmers' loan payments are due at harvest.

"We're talking about 2 billion bushels of corn that's not going to go through the system. We're talking about 59 billion in cash flow that's not going to occur. It's going to touch every nook and cranny of agricultural business and the national economy."

And he said if barge companies don't have the usual volume of corn to move or are stranded by low river levels, fares could go up dramatically, and that increase could spill over into railroad shipping rates and the prices consumers pay for food.

This weekend, river authorities said low water has stranded about 1,000 barges on the Mississippi River near the Gulf of Mexico and about 700 barges on the Ohio River near Mound City, Ill.

In some parts, the Mississippi is at its lowest level — 17 feet below normal, since record-keeping started in 1872.

HANDLER'S ACADEMIC specialty is solid state physics, but he started looking at weather trends when he was working in the public policy field.

"I had a data base for crops all over the world," he said. "I noticed there was correlation between good crops in one part of the world and bad crops in another."

He looked for some explanation and eventually put together the "volcanic theory" he uses to describe long-term trends for his private customers, which include grain companies, commodity brokers, farmers, seed companies, energy providers and other weather-related businesses.

When volcanoes erupt, they spew acidic aerosol into the stratosphere, the aerosol belts the earth until it dissipates and it affects weather patterns for years, he said.

He said erupting volcanoes in the tropical latitudes produce good crops in Illinois, but if they erupt in high latitudes — in Alaska, for example — the result is usually a drought in the Midwest.

"And if there's not volcanic aerosol in the stratosphere, we're more likely to have dry weather," Handler said.

HE SAID SMITHSONIAN institution scientists measure aerosol levels every month, and their findings correlate directly with corn yields this decade.

In 1982 and 1984 through 1987, corn yields were good," Handler said. "Measurements show there was loss of low-latitude aerosol. Related to the eruption of a Mexican volcano in April 1982."

The list of good years conspicuously omits 1983, still known as "the year of the drought" in farm circles. Handler said that year, the aerosol made an unusual shift from low altitudes to high ones and kicked in dry conditions.

"El Nino" also plays a role because it's associated with the volcanic-induced weather patterns, he said.

"Low-latitude aerosols produced El Nino, the warm water off the coast of Peru and Ecuador that's associated with good corn yields," he said. "When the aerosol disappeared from the tropics, the water turned from warm to cold, and now we're in an anti-El Nino state."

To make his predictions, Handler checks the aerosol and El Nino situations, and looks at rains in Australia, Thailand and India and planting weather in the Soviet Union. If the rains are abundant and the weather is good in Russia, the outlook is not good for the U.S. crop.

THIS YEAR, ALL the indicators for the Midwestern crop were negative, and Handler started talking about a drought as early as last fall.

He said he's checked his weather theory with corn yield data that dates back to 1966, and it explains what has happened about 80 percent of the time.

"I didn't understand the U.S. corn crop until the early 1980s," Handler said. "But the Russian crop's more sensitive to the volcanic theory. I've understood that since 1975 and predicted it every year since then but three."

He admits that he made a wrong call about the domestic crop in January 1987, when he also alerted clients about drought. He revised that forecast in June to predict the large crop farmers eventually harvested.

Handler said his volcanic model makes sense out of phenomena that have eluded scientific explanation for a century.

"Scientists studying temperature patterns have spent millions of man-hours trying to find a cycle," Handler said. "But maybe weather is random, and there is no secret cycle. Maybe it's caused by something random, like volcanoes."

He said even though his theory endorses randomness, it also makes worldwide sense.

'I had a data base for crops all over the world. I noticed there was correlation between good crops in one part of the world and bad crops in another.'

— Paul Handler
UI physicist

FAA declines review of O'Hare flight limit

CHICAGO (AP) — The Federal Aviation Administration has refused to review its limit of 155 flights per hour at O'Hare International Airport, despite repeated requests by federal safety officials who fear traffic overloads.

The clash of positions was underscored in a May 31 letter from the chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board to the head of the FAA, the Chicago Tribune reported Saturday.

The newspaper said NTSB Chairman Jim Burnett told FAA chief T. Allan McArtor in the letter that the board considered the FAA's position on the matter "unacceptable."

Forest board looks at bon

BY STEVE BAUER
News-Gazette Staff Writer

MAHOMET — The fairways and greens at the Lake of the Woods Golf Course are in trouble.

It's not just the heat and drought that's plenty of water to pump on to the golf course. The real problem, officials say, is the irrigation system.

"The system was built 20 years ago and in recent years, we have kept putting off maintenance," said Dick Naughtin, director of operations and supervisor of the golf course. "I told them that we could do that for one year, or even two. But now we're paying for it with thinned-out greens and fairways and a defunct irrigation system."

It will cost an estimated $200,000 — just in parts — to renovate the course with a modern irrigation system, according to Champaign County Forest Preserve District Executive Director John Oldenburg.

Another $120,000 is needed for seeding and greens renovation, fairway fertilization and new equipment for the golf course maintenance. The newest fairway mower is 12 years old. Several pieces of golf course equipment have been rebuilt several times.

THE GOLF COURSE is one example of problems facing the forest preserve district. And it actually makes about $100,000 a year for the rest of the forest preserve district programs.

"Although this revenue facility is the cornerstone for fee income to the forest preserve, money has been siphoned off for other corporate (general fund) budgets that were in need," Oldenburg said.

"Maintenance, capital improvements, fertilization and irrigation problems have been deferred," he said. "The real costs for correcting these problems are escalating with each year and are evident by the course condition, equipment and supplies, despite a dedicated effort by a professional staff."

The board will meet twice this week to decide whether to approve a plan by Oldenburg to issue $1 million in general obligation bonds. With interest, that would cost $1.43 million over the 10-year life of the bonds.

Oldenburg said bond proceeds would be allocated as follows: $250,000 for the golf course, $250,000 for forests and natural resources, $150,000 for vehicles and equipment, $100,000 for buildings and facilities, $100,000 for small-revenue facilities, $100,000 for project support and $50,000 for programs.

THE BOARD HAS scheduled a finance committee session for 7 p.m. Tuesday at the Early American Museum at Lake of the Woods to hear details on Oldenburg's plans for spending the bond money. Then at 7 p.m. Thursday, the board will meet at the Salt Fork River Forest Preserve near Homer to consider approval of the plan.

Oldenburg said the board must act quickly to solve its financial problems. He noted that the budget approved last November for the fiscal year beginning July 1 has serious flaws that will only compound the financial nightmares for the 1989-90 budget scheduled for adoption in November.

Although the 1988-89 budget calls for balanced expenditures and revenues of nearly $1.6 million, the budget is based on flawed assumptions, Oldenburg said. Among them:

■ The assessed valuation was projected to increase 15 percent, but growth of the tax base this year was only about 4.5 percent.

■ The general fund estimates for utilities and legal services were $50,000 below actual spending. Fees and utilities are expected to increase 11 percent next year.

■ No increases were included in the 1988-89 budget for salary increases, capital expenditures, maintenance or contingencies. Each 1 percent increase in salaries would cost $7,000.

OLDENBURG SAID the 1987-88 budget originally approved by the board estimated a $155,000 deficit. Through budget cuts and fee increases, that deficit was trimmed but is still projected at $60,000.

The general fund budget for 1988-89, locked in at $996,500, includes a shortfall of $170,000.

Oldenburg said the proposed $1 million bond issue does not solve the general fund problem and that his proposal already had eliminated

'That $1 million is really what I feel would do the most good for the district.'
— John Oldenburg, executive director

News-Gazette photo by Debra Colby

Ready to attack
Richard Dalton, left, prepares to give his sister, Holly, and his brother, Russ, a spray of water from a hose. The three enjoyed Saturday's warm weather at their residence in Champaign.

Chanute would like to put a

by GREG KLINE
News-Gazette Staff Writer

RANTOUL — Upon learning that Bob Kidd was from Rantoul, a fellow vacationer in Wisconsin remarked, "I see they're going to close Chanute Air Force Base."

Rantoul officials say they aren't worried about Chanute being on a new military-base closure list to be completed later this year. But they are concerned about the stigma that comes whenever Chanute is mentioned in the same breath as base closings, as it was late last month.

As Kidd's chance conversation shows, word gets around fast.

"We're more concerned about the damage that kind of talking does to the community ... then we are about the base closing," said Kidd, director of the Rantoul Area Chamber of Commerce.

"I'm not concerned about Chanute closing," Mayor Katy Podagrosi said. "I have no doubt it won't be closed. (But) almost an imaginable harm is done to the community by the talk of base closure."

VILLAGE OFFICIALS SAID they've fielded plenty of calls the past few weeks from people considering opening businesses or building homes in Rantoul who were worried about the closing rumors.

"The subject of a base closure comes up, and people get wary about investing," Podagrosi said.

Chanute means about $120 million annually to the area economy. It employs more than 1,000 civilians, and 6,264 military personnel were stationed there at the end of May.

Rantoul's population, base included, is about 20,000. There are another 186 families with Chanute jobs living in Paxton, 142 in Champaign and 58 in Urbana.

Last fall, Podagrosi said that she felt Rantoul was finally getting over the negative affects of an attempt by the Carter administration to close Chanute in 1977.

Then earlier this year plans were announced for a panel to study the nation's 400 military bases. The panel was to present a closure list to Secretary of Defense Frank Carlucci by Dec. 31 in a widely circulated Associated Press report last month. U.S. Rep. Lynn Martin, R-Rockford, said Chanute was a likely candidate.

Martin based her comments on the fact that Chanute had been targeted for closing in 1978, according to her press aide, Susan Irby.

That's a basis others say is unsound.

"There were base closing lists in 1985 and 1986, U.S. Rep. Edward Madigan, R-Lincoln, noted. Neither included Chanute.

"Officials of the Air Force this summer have assured me that Chanute is not on any list," said Madigan, whose district includes Rantoul.

"There were base closings, I know from Elmhurst, Rantoul's economic development consultant, a retired Air Force major general and former Chanute commander, described Martin's comments.

"I never met Ed Madigan, but I'm willing to shut up," Elliott said. "I'm willing to let Champaign-Urbana do the talking. I think it's time."

"We're starting to see a little more support, and that's some good news," he said.

It's significant that Chanute wasn't put on the initial list, Elliott said, "to look at it differently in 1978."

The purpose of the panel, he said, is "to look at the facilities and see what makes them tick and see what warrants the closing."

"That's why we have no problem with the panel. We do have some good facilities and a 36.45 million dollar school to be built. Both are to the benefit of the people of the community."

BRIG. GEN. JO[illegible] commander, also [illegible] plan calls for [illegible] with no "penalty [illegible] and than [illegible]

"We're starting [illegible] per, and that's [illegible]

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IN TOMORROW'S NEWS-GAZETTE
■ IN KIDZETTE, youth's computer speaks his language.
■ IN SPORTS, coverage of the final round of the U.S. Open.