

AIDS policy to be examined

By RUTH DAVIS
Staff Writer

The N.C. Department of Human Resources will probably request the N.C. General Assembly to take legislative action to deal with the AIDS virus and related problems, State Health Director Dr. Ron Levine said.

After the department studies and reviews the state's communicable diseases program, it plans to develop a proposal suggesting ways for North Carolina to handle acquired immune deficiency syndrome, Levine said.

"The disease so far in North Carolina is almost confined entirely to the high-risk groups," he said. "We're in a good position if we can come up with an effective means to control it."

Levine said North Carolina ranks 20th nationwide in incidence of AIDS.

Kathy Kerr, health educator for the N.C. AIDS Control Program, said that as of Feb. 12, 186 cases of AIDS were diagnosed statewide. Of those, 130 died, she said.

Stanley Lemon, associate professor of medicine, microbiology and immunology at N.C. Memorial

Hospital, said that for every one case reported about 50 are undiagnosed.

"There could be as many as 8,000 to 10,000 persons in North Carolina infected," he said. "(AIDS) is clearly present in North Carolina, even though North Carolina is not heavily urbanized."

Ellen Casselberry at the Public Health Services Office in Washington said 31,834 cases of AIDS were reported nationally as of March 2. Of those, 17,851 have died.

Although about 30,000 cases have been reported, Kerr said, between one and two million people could be unknowingly carrying the virus.

Three weeks ago a doctor from North Carolina attended a conference in Atlanta of communicable disease experts and health officials from across the nation to discuss AIDS. The group reached a consensus on issues including educational efforts, counseling and testing for the virus, Levine said.

The report produced at the conference concluded that because this is a pre-vaccine era and transmission of AIDS is through sexual intercourse, from pregnant women to

their babies and through hypodermic needles:

- people must alter their sexual practices;

- educational efforts must be continued and directed at everyone through the media, public service announcements and curriculum;
- the availability of one-on-one AIDS counseling must be increased substantially;

- testing for antibodies should remain voluntary, but should be offered and encouraged for the highest-risk groups, including hemophiliacs, people in the drug culture, homosexuals and bisexuals. If resources permit, heterosexuals at higher risk should also be tested, although they are still considered low-risk;

- "blind" studies of serum from different geographic areas should be conducted to develop a statistical idea of the incidence of AIDS.

The report also mentioned the need for statutory protection from discrimination and for confidentiality of AIDS patients except in cases to protect the public health, Levine said.

"The key is behavioral change," he said. "If you're not abstinent, not engaged in a solid monogamous relationship and you want to engage in casual sex, you have to take precautions. People have to get scared sometimes before they'll change their behavior."

Lemon said some AIDS patients at N.C. Memorial, Duke and other hospitals around the state are being treated with the drug Retrovir, formerly known as AZT.

Casselberry said Retrovir treatment is limited to AIDS patients who have certain related illnesses. She said it is impossible to predict when there will be a treatment for all AIDS patients.

"Research is going on to find treatments," she said. "But obviously people must be careful about their sexual partners."

To those who don't wish to abstain or maintain a monogamous relationship, she recommended using condoms carefully throughout sexual contact.

"They have a 10 percent failure rate," Casselberry said, "but that's the best we can do for now."

Pro-contra activist confirms having meetings with North

From Associated Press reports

WASHINGTON — Conservative activist Carl "Spitz" Channell met with Lt. Col. Oliver North as many as 14 times while North was a White House aide, always in the presence of contributors from whom Channell raised millions of dollars for the private pro-contra efforts, a Channell spokesman said.

Although money was not solicited at the sessions during which North spoke, North was "a resource" for Channell's efforts to help the contras, spokesman Jared Cameron said.

The acknowledgment indicates the most direct tie to North that Channell has revealed since news stories and the report of a presidential investigative commission linked him to the Iran-Contra affair.

Pointdexter pleads the Fifth

WASHINGTON — Former National Security Adviser John Pointdexter, a key figure in the Iran-contra investigation, cited Fifth Amendment protection against self-incrimination Tues-

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day in refusing to answer congressional questions about computer security.

His lawyer said Pointdexter feared the questioning would lead to the Iran-contra matter.

Pointdexter claimed Fifth Amendment protection last December, when he refused to answer congressional committees' questions about his involvement in the Iran-contra affair.

U.S. deficit soars

WASHINGTON — The United States sank further into the hole as the world's largest debtor nation in 1986, when the foreign trade deficit soared to a record \$140.57 billion.

While the United States has run a deficit in merchandise trade for 15 of the past 16 years, it has been offset by Americans' earnings on overseas investments. But since 1981, a flood of foreign goods has wiped out the cushion once provided by investment earnings.

Price reflects on the state of affairs

By NICKI WEISENSEE
Staff Writer

Congressional leadership may be more important as a result of the Iran-contra affair, Rep. David Price, D-N.C., said in an interview Monday.

"I think the main effect (of the Iran-contra affair) will be to put an additional premium on Congressional leadership," he said. "The White House has been weakened. I think it would've been better if the government had been more forthcoming from the beginning."

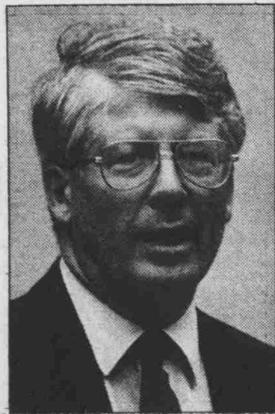
But he said Congress is not preoccupied with the Iran-contra affair.

"The government has not ground to a halt," he said.

Budget deliberations are underway, a trade bill is being written and Congress recently passed the Clean Water Act and a highway bill, Price said.

The fast start of Congress and the leadership of House Majority Leader Jim Wright have been very encouraging, Price said.

Price, a member of the Banking, Finance and Urban Affairs Committee, and the Science, Space and



David Price

Technology Committee, will join the Small Business Committee if his appointment is approved this week.

Price said his committees have been busy on various projects, which include tackling the savings and loan insurance crisis, authorizing a space

program and reauthorizing the National Science Foundation.

He is cosponsoring a trade bill and a G.I. education bill and is the primary sponsor for a bill to eliminate the proposed Eastern hazardous waste site.

"We have a waste site in the West and we don't need one in the East," Price said. "One is sufficient."

Two major concerns of 4th district constituents have been the student aid cuts in President Reagan's 1987 budget and the proposed aid to the contras. Price said he is against both.

"Reagan's budget is excessive and he knows it," Price said. "I've been watching the budget very closely and have done my best to express my views on the budget."

Price said many Democrats in Congress are against Reagan's budget and the drastic cuts will not be sustained.

"The federal deficit is also very discouraging," he said. "It's the cloud that hangs over everything we do. It's hard to hold the line or take new initiatives."

Price said he does not support aid to the contras and favors the method advanced by Sen. Terry Sanford, D-

N.C., which calls for negotiation.

Price said he would not endorse any particular candidate in the 1988 gubernatorial elections.

"I am very pleased that (Lt. Gov.) Bob Jordan is preparing to run," he said, "but I'm really not involved in the race."

He said there are some good candidates seeking the Democratic presidential nomination, but he wasn't committed to any one.

"My own race will be on me very quickly," he said, "and that's not going to leave me much time to worry about the governor's race or the presidential race."

Since taking office, Price has had no major conflicts with any other congressmen.

Price said he's working with Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C., and several others to get funding for the Randleman Dam near Greensboro.

"I want to work with anybody I can work with to help the state," Price said. "Of course (Helms and I) have our political differences, but on things of interest to the state where we are in agreement we'll work together."

Price was chairman of the N.C. Democratic Party during the 1983 Helms-Hunt senatorial battle.

Price said he has four major concerns as a congressman which he thinks are equally important.

"One is to make the investments we must make in education. Second, we need to get this country's fiscal house in order," he said. "Third, we need to get our balance of trade in order and stop the loss of American jobs. And fourth, we must make sure meaningful progress towards arms control is made and reduce superpower tension."

Price is in Washington Tuesday through Thursday and at his offices in Chapel Hill, Raleigh or Asheville Thursday afternoon through Monday afternoon.

He said, "It has its strains, but (my family and I) talked about it before I ran and we knew what we were getting into."

U.S. floundering in Latin America

By PAUL CORY
Staff Writer

The disagreement of U.S. policymakers over the causes and effects of instability in Latin America has caused fluctuations in U.S. policy towards the region, a UNC political science professor told about 26 people attending a UNC Young Democrats meeting Tuesday night in the Student Union.

U.S. policymakers pay little attention to the region until there is instability, when they act like "geologists studying an active volcano," said Lars Schoultz, who is also the head of the Institute of Latin American Studies. "Everybody runs over to peer over the edge and ask 'What's happening?'"

These disagreements among U.S. policymakers have created a battle between right- and left-wing groups, Schoultz said. Those on the right believe that communism causes instability in Latin America and threatens U.S. security. Groups on the left believe poverty causes instability, which does not threaten U.S. security. The majority of the policymakers lie between the two groups, he said.

The moderates agree with the left on the causes of instability in Latin America, but with the right on the effects of instability on U.S. security, Schoultz said. "Everybody can gain an absolute majority over the other, he said.

In the years immediately following World War II, U.S. policymakers agreed communism caused instability, which threatened U.S. security, Schoultz said. This consensus allowed the United States to react quickly and firmly to any instability in Latin America, he said.

Since then, the consensus has been fractured, Schoultz said. The consensus started to crack in the 1950s, when several prominent Republicans



Lars Schoultz

advanced the idea that poverty was causing the instability in Latin America, and continued to break up through the 1960s, Schoultz said.

During a question and answer period, Schoultz called for Democrats to re-evaluate the U.S. foreign aid program to Latin America. The Democrats created the current U.S. foreign aid program in the 1960s, he said.

"The Democratic Party has to come to grips with the fact that traditional U.S. foreign aid (to Latin America) is ineffectual," Schoultz said.

Schoultz also praised Costa Rican president Oscar Arias' proposed peace plan for Central America. The plan calls for the end of foreign military assistance to Central America, an end to civil wars and free elections.

"I believe its (the plan's) chances of succeeding are strong," Schoultz said.

Former ambassador criticizes U.S. policy toward Nicaragua

By DONNA LEINWAND
State & National Editor

The United States should take a stronger stand against the Sandinista government in Nicaragua by breaking diplomatic ties and recognizing the United Nicaraguan Opposition as an exiled government, said Curtin Winsor, former U.S. ambassador to Costa Rica.

"Nowhere have we betrayed American ideals more than in Nicaragua," Winsor told about 35 people Tuesday night in Manning Hall. "The United States, instead of sucking its thumb diplomatically, should break with Nicaragua. We must recognize a democratic entity."

Winsor, who served as ambassador from 1983 to 1985, said the U.S. government should blockade or quarantine Nicaragua until the Sandinistas fall.

Although the Nicaraguan revolution to overthrow the Somoza regime was intended to be demo-

cratic, the Sandinistas seized control, Winsor said, bringing in a communist government under the guise of democracy.

"Communists thrive as the thieves of government," he said. "They steal democratic revolutions."

Winsor said the Sandinistas promised the Organization of American States and the United States that they would maintain free elections, freedom of the press and freedom of religion in Nicaragua.

"They have broken these promises," Winsor said.

Based on the hope of a democratic government in Nicaragua, the United States gave considerable aid to the Sandinistas, Winsor said.

"It has been said that the United States turned around and harassed them (the Sandinistas)," he said. "Nothing can be further from the truth."

The Costa Rican government also

attempted to aid the Nicaraguans by sending teachers and doctors, but they were refused. But aid was accepted from Cuba, he said.

Winsor said Cubans work with the Sandinistas in the Ministry of Security and defense operations. Other groups, such as the Palestine Liberation Organization, are also present in Nicaragua, he said.

"Virtually every single member of the terrorist international is represented in Nicaragua," he said.

U.S. citizens should be concerned with the problems in Nicaragua because of its proximity to the United States and its de-stabilizing effects on the region, Winsor said.

The success of democracy in Central America is almost directly proportional to the amount of support given by the United States, Winsor said.

Winsor said the lack of full-fledged support for the contras was immoral and unmanageable.

"We are, in effect, asking patriotic Nicaraguans to fight. . . . We are asking freedom fighters to fight (against the Sandinistas), and we will not withdraw our embassy," he said. "We're not giving them enough money to win."

The typical member of the National Democratic Front (FDN), also called contras, is the small farmer, he said.

He said 34 percent of the FDN officers are former Sandinista men who deserted the organization. Somoza's former national guard makes up about 12 percent, he said.

"To call it (the FDN) a Somocista operation is an obscene outrage. It is a lie," he said.

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