

Lawyer seeking overview to problem

# Recruiting trial continues

United Press International  
WASHINGTON — A lawyer for the first recruiter brought to trial in a nationwide investigation of the Army recruiting system says all the men accused in the scandal should be allowed to present their stories together.

Mark Waple, who represents Sgt. 1st Class Marshall B. Jackson, and two other lawyers who also represent recruiters charged with recruiting fraud, were scheduled to meet today in Washington with top Army officials.

"What we're seeking is an opportunity to get to the bottom of the recruiting problem in general," Waple said Monday after jury selection was completed in Jackson's court-martial at Fort Bragg, N.C.

William Baxley of Montgomery, Ala., who arranged the meeting,

and Greg Anchors of Tallahassee, Fla., were to join Waple for the meeting in the Pentagon. Waple, who represents 25 recruiters from North Carolina, estimated Baxley and Anchors represent at least another 25 recruiters.

Baxley sought a meeting Tuesday with Army Secretary Clifford Alexander, but there was no indication if Alexander would attend or send one of his subordinates, Waple said.

"Up to this date, (the attitude of Army officials) has been very poor" toward the recruiters' claims, Waple said. "I think it's encouraging we have been given the opportunity to see someone."

The Senate Armed Services Committee has called for hearings on the recruiting situation but has not set a date.

Jackson, a 15-year veteran, is the

first recruiter in the country to go on trial for recruiting violations.

Waple declined comment on whether he would seek a delay in the court-martial, which was scheduled to resume today.

"I think it is in the best interest of the recruiters in general that the Senate hearings convene as soon as possible," he said.

About 200 recruiters have been relieved of duty during an Army investigation that began earlier this year following allegations some recruits were given answers to entrance exams and the records of others were falsified to make them eligible for the Army.

Some recruiters have charged they were pressured into violating regulations to meet enlistment quotas imposed on them by their superior officers, who often ignored reports of malpractice.

It sounded all right to Texans

# Maine safety slogan scrapped

United Press International  
AUGUSTA, Maine — "Have you belted your kids today?" At first, it seemed like a clever, well-meaning highway safety slogan.

But then the Maine Highway Safety Committee gave it some more thought and decided the slogan — urging the use of seat belts to save children's lives — was inappropriate.

"The idea seemed catchy to us at first," James McLean, special services director for the state Transportation Department, said Tuesday. "But when we really got to thinking about it we decided it was in bad taste."

The Maine Safety Committee isn't taking full blame for the promotion campaign since the idea came from the Texas Highway Safety Council newsletter.

McLean said the committee receives newsletters from about 25 states and often gets ideas to promote safety in Maine from them.

Public service advertisements using the slogan had been sent to 45 Maine newspapers before the panel decided to scrap it, so a letter was sent to all the papers asking that the ads be destroyed.

"The committee has reconsidered the outdated seat belt design and the wording," Leslie Hubley, public information specialist for the committee, said in a letter to the newspapers. "We are working on a replacement."

The cost of the campaign was minimal, McLean said. He said even the printing and mailing costs were negligible because other materials were mailed and printed at the same time.

# Wanted: Hospital nurses — up to \$1,000 bounty offered

United Press International  
NEW YORK — Some of the nation's hospitals, in the face of a worsening shortage of registered nurses, are offering bounties and other recruiting inducements for those able to help attract employees.

The American Nurses Association, in a report issued Monday, said estimates of the R.N. shortage currently range up to 100,000. And Matthew McNulty, president of the National League for Nurses, said the shortage is likely to worsen in the future because of declining nursing school enrollment.

Among those paying bounties or rewards — of \$100 to \$1,000 — to people who help recruit a nurse are

hospitals in Detroit, Minneapolis, Philadelphia, Chicago and Corpus Christi, an ANA spotcheck showed.

Yet despite the bounty offers and other unusual recruitment strategies, the ANA said the nurse shortage remains acute in many places in the nation and may not improve in future years.

McNulty, who also is chancellor of Georgetown University Medical Center in Washington, D.C., said this year — for the first time in a decade — there was a decline in the number of students in first-year courses: 111,928 vs. 113,479 a year earlier. The number of applications skidded 16 percent.

One index of the current R.N. shortage is the unemployment rate

for nurses seeking work; this past year it was 1.8 percent — the lowest since 1969.

McNulty said health care leaders met at Health, Education and Welfare offices last week to plot strategy for dealing with the shortage.

Part of the problem, he said, is a dip in interest in nursing as a career. Salaries, a reduction in government educational funds and on-the-job stress also were listed as problems.

The most recent ANA salary survey, done for HEW in 1977, put the average annual salary for an R.N. at \$13,000. Stress, nursing journals report, causes more and more nurses today to burn out — a term for stress overload.

# Man's run from check turns fatal

United Press International  
BALTIMORE — A man who fled a downtown restaurant to avoid paying a \$3.43 check ran into the path of a tractor-trailer and was crushed to death Monday.

Police say the man, who was not immediately identified, ate breakfast at the Bee Hive Restaurant and

walked out the door without paying.

When he got outside, they said, he ran several blocks, then darted between two parked cars.

A tractor-trailer driving down the street struck the man and pinned him under its first set of back wheels. He was pronounced dead at the scene.



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