

# IOWA TODAY

## Ex-DES chief: Job transfer meant to discipline deputy

By Rod Boshart  
Gazette Des Moines Bureau

DES MOINES — James Hunsaker's former boss Friday characterized his transfer to a supervisory job in Cedar Rapids with lesser authority as a forced move aimed at disciplining Hunsaker for \$1.1 million in alleged overspending within his Job Service bureau.

Richard Freeman, in his first public statement since resigning as director of the Iowa Department of Employment Services last December, said a refusal by Hunsaker to accept the shift last November would have been viewed as a voluntary resignation.

Freeman also conceded that he attempted to put the best face on Hunsaker's transfer by keeping him at his \$54,000-a-year salary and providing some amenities as part of an effort to distance him from the "heat" of legislative inquiries into Job Service practices.

"I felt it was disciplinary, yes," Freeman testified during an administrative hearing over Hunsaker's appeal of a Jan. 23 discharge that he claims wrongfully ended his 17-year career with DES. "I don't see how you could see it any differently."

Freeman stepped down after seven years as DES director on the same day that Hunsaker's transfer from chief of Job Service field operations bureau to supervisor of the agency's district office in Cedar Rapids became effective last December.

Freeman currently is working for the U.S. Department of Labor in Kansas City, Mo., in a temporary assignment.

One month after he resigned, Freeman's successor, Cynthia Eisenhower, fired Hunsaker for his role in allegedly overspending \$1.1 million during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1989. Hunsaker

is seeking reinstatement, back pay and other compensation, claiming Eisenhower's action violated state personnel rules.

**THE STATE CONTENDS** Eisenhower was within her authority to fire Hunsaker because a special audit pinpointed serious financial mismanagement within his former bureau and because his transfer did not constitute a demotion or discipline by definition according to state rules.

Hunsaker testified at Friday's hearing that as Job Service field operations bureau chief he continued to hire staff and authorize equipment purchases contrary to warnings because he doubted the agency's deficit projections were accurate.

Hunsaker said he had little faith in figures provided by Job Service financial

officials because his bureau traditionally showed a deficit during winter months but had ended the previous two fiscal years with surpluses that were divided among other bureaus with deficits on June 30.

"I didn't believe them," he said. He also testified that he did not manage his bureau differently in fiscal 1989 compared to other years, and was uncertain if he actually had overspent his funding allocation last year because bureau budgets were very "fluid" due to a myriad of money sources.

"You've got clients, you can't stop servicing your clients," added Hunsaker, who was in charge of overseeing the state's 68 Job Service offices and administering a number of federal and state programs to find jobs or provide unemployment benefits for Iowans out of work.

Hunsaker said he overstaffed his agen-

cy by 22 full-time positions and authorized more than \$600,000 in equipment purchases because he believed the money was available in his budget. Asked if he still believed the money was available given all the events that have transpired, he replied "no."

Hunsaker, who currently is studying elementary education at the University of Iowa and working 20 hours part-time at minimum wage, said he did not resist Freeman's decision to transfer him to Cedar Rapids because "I felt I had no other choice."

"It was a lesser evil," he said. "I'd been with the agency for 17 years. I didn't want to raise a ruckus that might have caused an embarrassment to the agency. I accepted it."

The hearing is scheduled to continue later this month, but a decision by administrative law judge Susan Bolte is not expected until later this year.

### NEWS NOTES/ EAST IOWA

#### Veterinarian suspended

**DUBUQUE (AP)** — The Dubuque Greyhound Park board of stewards has suspended Dubuque veterinarian Dr. Merrill Vanderloo for violation of state gaming rules. Brian Southwood, director of operations at Dubuque Greyhound Park, said Thursday that Vanderloo had violated rules prohibiting a state contracted veterinarian from treating greyhounds off premises. He said Friday, however, that the matter still is being investigated and he doesn't know the specific rules that Vanderloo violated. Vanderloo has practiced veterinary medicine in Dubuque for 38 years, and has contracted with Dubuque Greyhound Park since 1985.

#### Safety concerns

**DES MOINES (AP)** — Rural residents who will be in the dark when a utility security light leasing program is scrapped over the next few years say the change has them worried about safety.

"I feel a lot more protected with that thing going on at dusk and off in the morning," Jim Gallagher, who lives north of Bondurant, said Thursday.

The Iowa Utilities Board has ordered the 1994 elimination of the Light Watchman service, which leases 175-watt or 400-watt mercury vapor lamps to utility customers for outdoor use. Users currently pay about \$6 to \$9 a month for the lights.

The board ordered the cancellation of the program because of bookkeeping irregularities, but a spokesman for Iowa Power Co. said the market for outdoor lighting has changed a lot since the program began in 1962.

#### ADA rally

**DES MOINES** — A rally is scheduled for Sunday in Des Moines to celebrate the Americans With Disabilities Act, recently signed into law by President Bush. Iowans with disabilities and organizations representing their causes will gather at the Botanical Center from 1:30 to 3 p.m. Sen. Tom Harkin, D-Iowa, will speak.

## Body found; mysterious caller to TV station vows 'there will be many more'

**DES MOINES (AP)** — An anonymous caller who identified the decomposed remains of a young woman has threatened that there will be "many more" such deaths, but Des Moines police say they do not know whether the threat is serious.

"Based on what a caller said,

we don't want to stir up any hype, anxiety or panic in the community," Police Sgt. Thomas Van Baale said.

But he added, "We certainly are not going to brush it off."

Police identified a body found Wednesday night near the Des

Moines River as that of 25-year-old Pamela Carter of Des Moines. Her mother had reported her missing July 10.

The cause of death remains unknown pending an autopsy, police said. They have said the woman could be a murder victim. An anonymous telephone call-

er accurately described the woman before police identified her Thursday with dental records.


"She is the first, there will be many more," the caller told WHO television.

He described the body as that of a black woman, 5 feet, 5 inches tall and about 134 pounds. A

missing person's report had listed Carter as 5 feet, 4 inches and 130 pounds.

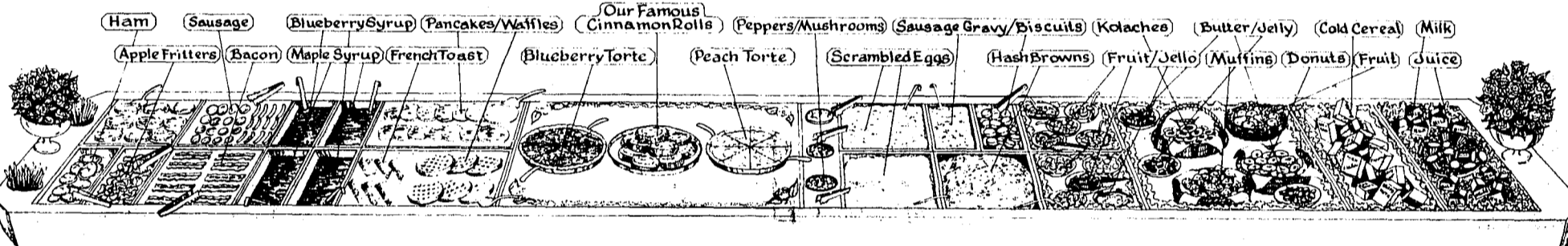
Van Baale was reluctant to give credence to the caller.

An anonymous telephone caller told police Wednesday about the decomposed body, found just south of a city bridge.



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