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Mecham impeached

Hearings called a 'mockery'

Mecham says trial will vindicate him

By Susan R. Carson
The Arizona Daily Star

PHOENIX — Gov. Evan Mecham called House impeachment hearings a "mockery" but said he does not fear a Senate trial.

Mecham made the comments in several statements during the last day of his testimony before a House impeachment committee. The House later impeached the governor by a 46-14 vote.

Before the vote, Mecham thanked House members for inviting him to testify.

"At least I've had an opportunity to tell the people of Arizona many things they haven't heard before," Mecham said.

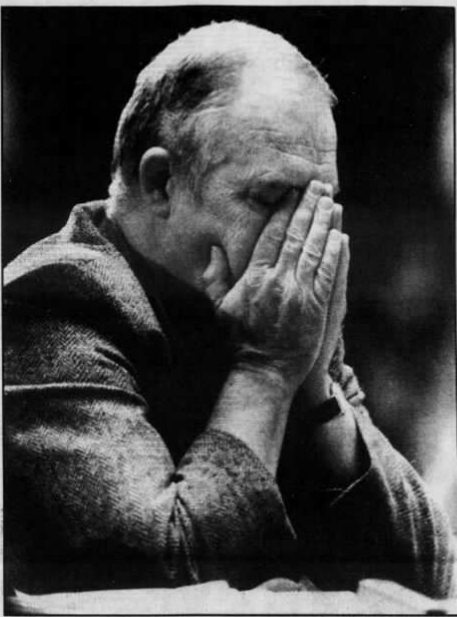
And although Mecham said he believed yesterday that the resolution of impeachment would be passed, he added, "That's not the end of the world."

Of the upcoming Senate trial, he said, "I don't fear that in the least." He said he believed the trial would vindicate him, although it would cost the taxpayers a lot of money.

He also asked House members, many of whom predicted Thursday that Mecham would be impeached: "What kind of mockery is this bearing if a majority of you have already made up your mind?"

He also told House members that "they're going to have to live with their vote for the rest of their lives," while he will be vindicated when he is acquitted by the Senate.

"I will be all right," he said. Mecham said an \$80,000 loan to his Glendale car dealership from his private fund was a good business investment because it would garner



David Sanders, The Arizona Daily Star

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Impeachment committee chairman Jim Skelly shows strain of House vote

Mofford becomes acting governor

By Susan R. Carson
The Arizona Daily Star

PHOENIX — Secretary of State Rose Mofford became acting governor at 6:09 p.m. yesterday when the House voted to impeach Republican Gov. Evan Mecham.

The State Constitution says that "in the event of the impeachment of the governor," the secretary of state becomes governor until the impeachment is resolved by a Senate trial.

But Mofford said last night that it would take

"The attorney general and our legal counsel have advised us that once we passed the resolution, we should notify Mecham that Rose is the acting governor."

James B. Ratliff
House Majority Leader

more than an oral legal opinion to convince her that she is the acting governor.

"I've received no official notice," she said. "I've had no phone calls, and I'll wait until I receive something in writing... not a phone call."

"Once I receive the official notice, I know or feel that someone who could help in the transition, if necessary," Mofford said.

Mofford said she has not made any major plans to cope with the change, adding, "It's the first time this has ever happened."

She said she has given no thought to personnel changes among Mecham's closest aides in the ninth floor governor's office.

"I have no idea who or what he has upstairs," said Mofford, whose office is on the seventh floor.

Although Monday is a legal holiday for most state employees, Mofford said she will be in her office "available to the attorney general, the House, the Senate or whoever needs me."

Although there has been some confusion about when impeachment occurs, House Majority Leader James B. Ratliff, R-Sun City, said: "The attorney general and our legal counsel have advised us that once we passed the resolution, we should notify Jim (Mecham) that Rose is the acting governor."

Mofford, 65, is to assume duties immediately, but will still retain the title of secretary of state, Chief Assistant Attorney General Steve Twist said.

"Of course, if the governor decides to object to that conclusion and tries to perform his duties, it would become incumbent upon the Attorney General's Office" to take legal action, Twist said.

Ratliff, who met with Mecham Thursday night and telephoned him in Lake Havasu last night, said Mecham told him "he will not challenge it. He agreed it would not be beneficial to challenge it."

As acting governor, Mofford can move into the governor's offices in the Capitol and fire anyone who "serves at the pleasure of the governor," however, Ratliff said. "I certainly would not expect any changes in the staff."

Mofford has been secretary of state for the ninth floor governor's office.

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House votes 46-14 to force Senate trial

By Susan R. Carson
Melissa Nigg
and Walt Nett
The Arizona Daily Star

PHOENIX — The House, in a historic and emotional step, voted overwhelmingly yesterday to impeach Gov. Evan Mecham. He became the first Arizona governor ever impeached.

As representatives cast their 46-14 vote the House chamber filled with emotion, particularly when Rep. Mark Kilian, a Mesa Republican, represents a district with many Mecham supporters.

Mecham, in a closing statement before the House impeachment committee yesterday morning, said he was "going to get along all right" regardless of which way the House voted.

"Not the end of the world"

"That's not the end of the world," he said of the impeachment resolution, which he expected to pass.

"I'm going to be able to go on and acquit myself" in the Senate, and House members will have to "live with their votes for the rest of their lives," Mecham said.

The state Attorney General's Office said last night that Secretary of State Rose Mofford became acting governor once the impeachment resolution passed at 6:09 p.m.

Mecham, in Lake Havasu City for a speaking engagement, said he was not surprised by the vote. The Associated Press reported: "We will have to wait to see what happens in the Senate trial."

HOW THEY VOTED

PHOENIX (AP) — Here is how lawmakers voted on House Resolution 2012 to impeach Republican Gov. Evan Mecham.

Republicans favoring impeachment (21):

- Burt Baker, Herford; Bob Broughton, Mesa; Jim Green, Tucson; Jim Harrington, Casa Grande; Larry Hawke, Tucson; Bev Herman, Tempe; Chris Hertram, Phoenix; Hens Hink, Scottsdale; Jane Dee Hall, Phoenix; Bob Hungerford, Phoenix; Jack Jewett, Tucson; John King, Phoenix; Joe Lane, Wilcox; Jim Meredith, Phoenix; Jim Miller, Phoenix; William Mondell, Chandler; Jenny Norton, Tempe; Sterling Ridge, Glendale; Betty Rockwell, Phoenix; Jim Skelly, Scottsdale; Don Strauch, Mesa; George Weiss, Phoenix; Nancy West, Phoenix; John Wetlau, Flagstaff; Jim White, Phoenix.

Democrats favoring impeachment (2):

- Gus Arzberger, Wilcox; David Bartlett, Tucson; Carmen Cajero, Tucson; Karan English, Flagstaff;

"I'm going to be able to go on and acquit myself" in the Senate, and House members will have to "live with their votes for the rest of their lives," Mecham said.

A letter was to be delivered to Mecham late last night informing him of the vote.

Mofford awaits notice

He received the news in a telephone conversation with House Majority Leader James B. Ratliff, R-Sun City, while attending a Lincoln Day dinner in Lake Havasu City, Ratliff said. Mecham was "upbeat" when he talked with him.

Mofford said she would not take over as governor without written notification, which she had not received by 10:30 last night.

Kilian's tears came as he expressed his regrets for the "outstanding, rude, careless, John Birch accusation," Mecham leveled at impeachment committee Chairman Jim Skelly, R-Scottsdale, during yesterday morning's testimony.

"I am not so sure Gov. Mecham is worthy of the support of any Republican in the state. He has continually skated along life following the lowest common denominator of social behavior, and that's barely eking by the law," Kilian said.

Kilian also said former Senate President Stan Turley, R-Mesa, described Mecham well when he re-

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Jim Davis, The Arizona Daily Star

"I've received no official notice. I've had no phone calls, and I'll wait until I receive something in writing."

Rose Mofford

Indictments portray Noriega as drug kingpin

By Philip Shanon
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MIAMI, Fla. — Panamanian ruler Manuel Antonio Noriega "sold his official position" to drug traffickers for millions of dollars and turned Panama into a capital of cocaine smuggling, the Justice Department charged yesterday.

In one of two indictments, prosecutors tried to link Cuban leader Fidel Castro with drug operations run by Noriega and the so-called Medellin Cartel, a Colombian cocaine ring that reportedly is responsible for more than half of the cocaine smuggled into the United States.

While prosecutors said the Justice Department lacks enough information to

charge Castro, they described the evidence against Gen. Noriega, who has ruled Panama since 1983, as overwhelming.

"In plain language, he utilized his position to sell the country of Panama to drug traffickers," said Leo B. Keilner, the U.S. attorney in Miami, whose grand jury brought one of the two long-awaited indictments. The other indictment was handed up in Tampa.

According to the indictments, Noriega took more than \$4.6 million to provide secure airstrip and haven for some of the world's most violent drug traffickers. Among them, were a group of fugitives linked to the 1984 assassination of Colombia's justice minister.

The indictments raise serious questions about the Reagan administration's once vigorous support for Noriega and his government.

Keilner said he recognized the effect of the 12-count indictment on already strained relations between the United States and Panama.

"I recognized the implications of indicting a person who controls a country, and General Noriega controls Panama," Keilner said. He said he received "no hindrance" from the Reagan administration in pursuing the 14-month investigation.

Because of limited extradition treaties between the United States and Panama, it is almost inconceivable that the general will be brought to the United States for trial

while he holds power.

The general, 46, has repeatedly denied involvement in drug trafficking and has accused the United States of making false allegations against his government in an effort to retain control of the Panama Canal.

In Panama City, the Foreign Ministry said yesterday that "Panama categorically and indignantly rejects this new assault against its leaders and institutions and warns that neither these actions nor any other will make us cede."

The ministry also said it would be "extremely dangerous" for the United States to "try the patience, tolerance, and good faith" of Panama.

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WEATHER

Sunny. The skies are expected to be sunny and winds will gust from the southwest at 10 to 20 mph. The high is expected to be in the upper 60s and the low in the lower 40s. Yesterday's high was 61 and the low 48. Details on Page 3A.

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