

# Barons chief denies move to Texas

CLEVELAND (UPI) — Cleveland Barons President John Karr has denied reports from Houston that his club may move to Texas next season, as part of a merger between the National Hockey League and the World Hockey Association.

Aeros' board chairman Kenneth Schnitzer said Tuesday he had talked with Barons' owners. "I don't know of any discussions," said Karr, speaking for owners George and Gordon Gund.

"If there had been any kind of serious discussions, I'm sure they (the Gunds) would have mentioned them to me. It would be accurate to say it's full steam ahead for the Cleveland Barons in 1978-79."

Karr said it was possible Schnitzer "picked up a telephone, called George or Gordon and said, 'Hey, come to Houston.' And if he did, he was probably told to go soak his head."

Schnitzer said earlier he could have an answer from a National Hockey League team in 10 days whether the Cleveland franchise agrees to his proposal for a move to Houston.

"We're going to know very quickly, by the June (NHL Board of Governors) meeting," said Schnitzer, who says he will fold the money-losing Aeros rather than support them another season in the World Hockey Association.