

Task force discusses possible police cut

By Val Swinton

The money problems at UNL apparently have caused some faculty members to cast a suspecting glance at the campus police department.

A university task force appointed to look into budget problems discussed the possibility of eliminating the police department. But according to some members, the task force decided it would be more expensive to eliminate the department than to keep it.

Other faculty members say they would like to see the department scaled down, even to the extent of replacing commissioned officers with security guards.

Burt Maxcy, former chairman of the UNL campus police committee and presently on the Faculty Senate's executive committee, said the department was costing the university too much money.

"There's far too many of them," he said. "They are acting and using the concepts of a city police force rather than a campus police force."

Maxcy is one of the faculty members who would like to see a force of security officers, unarmed and noncommissioned, similar to the force at UNO.

MAXCY IS not alone in his thinking. In a Nebraska Supreme Court ruling last spring involving bargaining rights for campus officers, the Supreme Court said it, too, could find no reason for commissioned officers who carried guns.

"The record does not indicate any great need for those commissions," the justices said in their ruling. "The evidence indicates security personnel at UNO and at the Medical Center are not commissioned and do not carry arms, yet provide whatever necessary security is required."

Both Ray Coffey, UNL business manager and Gail Gade, director of UNL police, disagree.

"It's obvious to me these people are speaking without knowing all the facts," Gade said. While admitting that to his knowledge, no officer in the department had ever fired his revolver in the course of duty, he said the protection they provide is necessary.

"TONIGHT IT may happen. Tomorrow it may happen," he said, referring to an incident that would require an officer to use a gun. "We can't fulfill our responsibilities without proper training and equipment."

Maxcy doesn't accept that argument though.

"If we cut the police force, maybe we increase the risks a little," he said. "Those are the tradeoffs."

The UNL police department is budgeted \$600,000 and currently has 37 commissioned officers.

Coffey said he did not think it was fair to compare the campuses at Omaha and Lincoln.

"UNL has been here as long as the city," he said. "This has never been a part of the campus. And there's considerable difference in the size of the two campuses."

However, Maxcy said that UNO would seem to have a greater need for commissioned officers than UNL.

"They're in a larger city and a rougher city," he said.

MAXCY ALSO accuses the police department of trying to justify its existence with programs that are good, but not necessary.

As an example, he pointed to a recent film on rape prevention and the monthly newsletter, "Starve a Thief," which is printed and distributed by the police department.

Gade said that the programs were a necessary part of crime prevention.

"We're doing it for the purpose of helping people make decisions in situations in which they are victims," he said.

Another faculty member thinks the police are performing duties that might be given to someone else. Craig MacPhee, associate professor of economics and chairman of the Faculty Senate's budget committee, said the police department is allocated \$50,000 for locking and unlocking doors, an expense he considers unnecessary.

"I don't see any reason why the chief administrator in each building couldn't lock and unlock the doors every morning," he said.

Coffey disagreed with both the budget figure and the assumption. He said about \$5,000 is budgeted for the task. He also said that if the chief administrator is sick, or on vacation, people might find themselves locked out of a building. As long as that duty is given to the police department, he said, someone will be around to open the buildings.

Coffey also questioned the effect replacing commissioned officers with security guards would have on insurance rates.

But Roy Loudon, Jr., administrator of personnel and risk management, said reducing the police department to security guards would have little effect on the rates.

Kennedy in Omaha:

Inflation top U.S. problem

By Mike Sweeney

Council Bluffs, Iowa—Sen. Edward M. Kennedy Friday identified inflation as the number one problem facing the country, but nevertheless said he intends to back a Senate bill increasing government price supports for grain prices by 7 percent.

Government price supports for grain will give a degree of certainty and predictability to agriculture and the marketplace, Kennedy said.

"The places where the consumers of the East spent the most or paid the most was when we had the wide fluctuation in the export markets in the early part of the 1970s," he said. "That was more costly to consumers than the question of a price support program."

The 7 percent increase designated by the bill is "just, fair, warranted," Kennedy said. The bill probably will go to the Senate floor this week.

Kennedy answered questions Friday in this town of 60,000 people east of Omaha, and later spoke at a public reception in a Council Bluffs high school.

The Massachusetts senator, who announced his candidacy for the 1980 Democratic Presidential nomination a month ago, made his first campaign visit to Nebraska Friday afternoon.

Kennedy's plane landed at Eppley Airfield in Omaha shortly after 3 p.m. He met briefly with the members of his Nebraska steering committee at the airport before departing for Iowa, the site of the nation's first political caucus.

STEERING COMMITTEE chairman Don Gregory, a UNL associate professor of English, said Kennedy wanted to meet the local workers running his campaign.

"It's tough to meet the candidate," Gregory said, referring to the knot of burly, dark-suited security officers who surrounded the senator.

Gregory said Kennedy spoke to the group for about a half hour, discussing campaign issues instead of campaign instructions.

The issues Kennedy stressed at an afternoon press conference were President Jimmy Carter's relationship with the oil companies, Carter's resurgence in the political popularity polls and inflation.

KENNEDY SAID Carter acted naively toward the oil companies, and was neither fully aware nor cognizant of their behavior concerning the windfall profits tax.

"The idea that you could move the nation to a program of decontrol, which Mr. Carter did, and then expect you're going to get an effective windfall profits tax, I think was politically naive," Kennedy said.

"The fact is, we let the horse out of the barn and gave him the sugar, and then expected the horse to come back in the barn," Kennedy said.

He said he doesn't believe there has been a narrowing of the gap between himself and Carter in the polls.

Instead, the Iranian crisis has fostered a national sense



Photo by Mike Sweeney

Ted Kennedy

of unity, "which I feel myself, very deeply," Kennedy said. The recent feelings of unity are reflected in the polls, he said.

HE SAID HE always has expected Carter to be a strong challenge for the nomination, particularly because the president has the resources of his office to support him.

Kennedy also talked about inflation, saying the 2.6 percent monthly increase in the wholesale price index announced Friday morning is particularly troublesome to farmers, who wonder who is pocketing the increase.

Later, at a public reception in the gymnasium of St. Albert High School, Kennedy said Americans should expect the president to "call in the food companies and ask them to roll back their prices to protect consumers" in light of the 2.6 percent increase.

Kennedy drew warm applause from the crowd packed into the gym, many of whom wore blue Kennedy buttons.

About a dozen anti-abortion protestors stood at the back of the gymnasium. They carried signs saying "Kennedy votes death to the unborn," and "Kennedy discriminates against the urban poor," but remained silent during the candidate's speech.

Kennedy did not respond to their placards.

Photo I.D.'s are possible

By Rich Jurgens

If given a choice between UNL photo identification cards and buying general admission prices for next year's football games, ASUN would prefer photo identification.

ASUN President Bud Cuca said if it comes down to a choice between photos and paying general admission prices for football tickets, he would favor photo identification because only a minority of students scalp their tickets.

The NU Board of Regents probably will discuss in January or February the possibility of replacing the old university identification cards with photo cards to curb the problem of football ticket scalping, according to Richard Armstrong, vice chancellor for student affairs.

Armstrong said scalping general admission football tickets is not illegal, but selling reduced-priced student tickets is illegal.

With photos, the illegal abuse of student football tickets could be curtailed, he said.

Armstrong said there is no way of knowing just how serious football ticket scalping is, but said he has the impression that the problem is a serious one.

David DeCoster, dean of student affairs, said 173 student football tickets were confiscated at this year's games.

However, he said, stopping ticket scalping is not the only reason for changing to photos. He said photo cards would be beneficial for security on and off campus.

Lincoln bars would be able to check if a student was old enough to drink if the student didn't have a photo drivers license, DeCoster said.

He said almost all of the Big Eight schools now are using photo identification and that the regents probably would contact other Big Eight schools to find out the effectiveness of their systems.

The financing of photo identification, if implemented, remains a question.

The current budget for identification cards is \$12,000, with estimated cost of photos \$2 each. UNL has 22,000 students, so cost would exceed \$44,000.

Cuca said if the photo idea is implemented, it should be gradually phased in, applying to incoming freshmen each year. He said this way UNL could stay within its \$12,000 budget.

Armstrong, however, said Cuca's idea would only delay the objective of photos, which is to eliminate football ticket scalping.

DeCoster said one possible alternative to finance photos is to charge students the cost upon entering the university.