

State Capitol News —

Somebody'll Be Hurt Financially If U. of N. Budget Breaks Out into Scrap

LINCOLN—This is a \$14 million story.

John K. Selleck, business manager of the University of Nebraska, last week marched from the campus up 15th street to the capitol. There he plunked down on the desk of Governor Peterson the university's request for the 1951-53 biennium.

Instead of the 8-million-dollars in state tax funds granted by the 1949 legislature, Mr. Selleck this time asked for 14-million-dollars, a 75 percent increase. In all, the university expects to spend the next two years almost 26-million-dollars, but 7½-million-dollars of this comes from revenue-producing and self-supporting activities, called by the university "auxiliary enterprises."

That left something over 18-million-dollars of which the school can supply more than 4-million-dollars in student fees, federal money and endowments. So the tax fund divvy the Cornhusker institution is asking is a little over 14-million-dollars.

The university feels that it took a beating from the 1949 legislature. It asked for 11-million-dollars in tax funds and got 8-million. And what's worse, the N. U. administration feels, was the fact that Tax Commissioner Phil Johnson wouldn't agree on how much student fee income would drop.

This is the university's story: The 1949 legislature appropriated \$6,600,000 from tax funds. With this, the institution gave everybody a 10 percent cost of living raise, the last general pay hike.

The 1949 legislature approved 8-million-dollars, an increase of \$1,400,000. But the university says the joker in that is that student fees have been \$1,200,000 less than Johnson figured, so their net gain has been about \$200,000, which didn't go very far. As a matter of fact, according to Chancellor R. G. Gustavson, in trying to maintain its current program, the school has spent this biennium \$410,000 in reserve and building funds to balance the budget.

"The university feels this is not a sound fiscal policy," the chancellor said.

Now the university is trying to get back what it feels it lost two years ago, and some more besides. It's a kind of double-or-nothing.

Capitol observers gasped when they saw the figures. Up until the university's budget came in, the 50 percent hike (from \$100,000 to \$150,000) asked by the resources division had held the distinction of being the biggest increase asked.

There were strong indications that Governor Peterson didn't like the university's figures when he first saw them two weeks ago, but he was right up against the finish of a tough political campaign and said nothing for the record.

The governor must take the university's request and whip it into shape for presentation to the legislature. That chore is largely the work of Johnson and Budget Director Loren Laughlin.

University supporters weren't very happy with the way the governor treated the school's last request. He simply took the 1947 appropriation and applied to it the same increase formula he used for other state institutions, resulting in a cut for the university from what it had sought. These supporters object to the university's being treated financially like a board of control institution.

Everybody's hoping that the university and the governor can get together on a figure to present to the legislature. If they don't, and the thing breaks out into a full-fledged scrap before the budget committee, somebody'll be hurt financially, and it will probably be the university.

Which brings up the question of how the legislature is going to react to a budget request of that size. There's little question all agencies are going to want more money, but few of them will be as bold as the U. of N.

The fact that the voters last week turned down the additional gasoline tax and the vehicle license fee increase adopted by the 1949 legislature won't escape the

members of the 1951 session. Nor will they overlook the very apparent fact that the electorate would have nothing to do with a proposal which, among other things, would have allowed the legislature to fix their own salaries. The voters were in a saving mood and the senators know it. It very likely will be reflected in budget matters.

Student Income Shrinking—

Why does the university want so much money? Here's what Gustavson says:

1. Student fee income during the next two years will shrink at least \$1 million below the present level.

2. Pay increases as a reward for good work and to meet competition from institutions in other states—postponed because of lack of funds during the current biennium—and raises to meet the cost of living will total \$1,829,055 for salaried employees and \$105,590 for skilled and unskilled labor.

3. Increased costs of supplies, utilities and equipment will cost \$203,400.

4. During the current biennium a number of services and programs were suspended for lack of funds. These included closing a ward at the University hospital in Omaha. The cost of reinstating these programs is estimated at \$558,873.

5. The university has received many requests from Nebraska citizens for additional teaching, research and public service programs. These have been carefully screened and projects selected which will be of greatest benefit to Nebraska's economy. They will cost \$2,181,706.

"All of these projects, a long with the reserve money we spent total \$6,088,829 in state tax funds," Gustavson said, "which is the difference in what was appropriated last session and what we estimate it will now cost to operate the university."

Whatever else you think of the university's request, you've got to admit it's interesting. And what happens to the request at the hands of Johnson, Laughlin, Governor Peterson and the budget committee of the legislature will be no less worth watching.

Football and Pheasants Supplement Politics—

The Nebraska statehouse was recovering from the election this week, which made it a dull week from a news standpoint. Cornhusker football and ducks and pheasants replaced politics as conversation topics in the crowded capitol cafe.

But government went on, anyway. The various state agencies have begun the parade to the governor's hearing room for public hearings on their budget requests. Tax Commissioner Philip K. Johnson and Budget Director Loren Laughlin conduct the hearings which have been a lot more private than public up till now.

Everybody's asking for more money, both with which to pay employees and to operate their agencies. Biggest boost asked so far (except for university) is from the Division of Nebraska Resources, which wants a 50 percent hike.

The division, created to attract industry to Nebraska, has an appropriation for the current biennium of \$100,000, plus an unexpended balance of \$1,433. Requested for the 1951-'53 period is \$150,530.

The division said it plans to spend more than \$90,000 of its \$100,000 for advertising, largely in national magazines. The bigger amount also includes provision for an additional field man.

Still on the subject of budgets, the state liquor commission submitted a request of \$387,000, compared to a current appropriation of \$321,000. Chairman Marcus Potters said the addition of six inspectors to the staff, along with general salary increases, accounted for most of the raise.

Attorney General C. S. Beck, in the request for the state justice department, is asking the legislature to approve \$6,000-a-year salaries for five assistants. Their salaries now range from \$4,200 to \$5,000. Beck's salary is set by statute at \$5,000 and that of his deputy, Walter E. Nolte, at \$4,800.

Apples Are in Season So Try These Two Swell Recipes

BY BETTY LYNN CURTICE

APPLES are in large supply now and it's time to invite them into our meals. So let's get started and pick a few choice recipes.

Party Baked Apples With Sour Cream (4 servings)

One-half cup dark corn syrup, ¼ cup water, ¼ teaspoon cinnamon, 1 teaspoon grated orange rind, 1 tablespoon butter or fortified margarine, 2 tablespoons sugar, 4 tart red apples, unpared, 1 cup sour cream.

Combine syrup, water, cinnamon, lemon rind, butter or margarine and sugar. Bring to boiling point over low heat, stirring until sugar is dissolved. Wash and core apples and pare the top third of each apple. Place apples in shallow baking dish. Pour hot syrup mixture over apples. Bake in moderate oven (350 degrees F.) for 30 to 40 minutes or until apples are tender, basting frequently with the syrup mixture. Serve hot or cold topped with sour cream.

Apple Fritters (10 to 12 fritters)

One cup sifted flour, 2 teaspoons baking powder, 1¼ teaspoons salt, ¼ cup sugar, 1 egg, well beaten, ¾ cup milk, 2 teaspoons melted shortening, 1 cup coarsely chopped, pared apples (1 to 2 apples), melted fat or salad oil.

Sift together flour, baking powder, salt and sugar into mixing bowl. Combine egg, milk and shortening. Add to fry ingredients and mix well until batter is smooth. Fold in chopped apples.

To deep-fry, have deep kettle ½ to ¾ full of melted fat or oil. To shallow-fry, have 1½ to 2 inches melted fat or oil in frying pan. Heat fat to 375 degrees F., or until inch cube of bread will brown in about 40 seconds.

Drop apple batter by tablespoons into hot fat. Deep-fry or shallow-fry 4 to 6 minutes or until well-browned. Turn fritters frequently to brown evenly. Drain on absorbent paper on a rack.



For still another tempting taste treat, try flavoring your next batch of cup cakes with delicious, bright red Washington apples.

Serve hot with main course—or as a hot dessert with a hot fruit sauce, syrup, powdered sugar or sweetened whipped cream. NOTE: It is important to have fat at correct temperature (375 degrees F.) before frying.

More Local Control Considered—

More authority in self-government was recommended for Nebraska's 93 counties in the report of the legislative council's committee on reorganization of county government.

The group, headed by William Metzger, of Cedar Creek, suggested 14 changes in laws concerning county government. This would necessitate two constitutional changes and several statutory revisions.

Recommended changes would remove the five-mill tax limit on counties, and give them authority to select their own government and fix the salaries of their officers.

"Pending the outcome of the proposal for calling constitutional convention recommended by another legislative council committee," Metzger's group recommended that the legislature propose the amendments for submission to the people.

The committee recommended amending the constitution to:

Permit each county to exercise the power of home rule in selecting its own form of government—the county manager, commission or "single executive" plan.

Remove the five-mill tax limit now imposed upon counties making "local citizens responsible for determining their own tax burdens."

Statutory changes recommended include:

Giving each county option of choosing a three, five or seven-member board of commissioners.

Giving each county the option of electing its board members either from single districts or from the county at large.

Repeal of all statutory provisions fixing salaries of county officials and employees, and substitution of a provision that the salaries be prescribed by the respective county boards.

Other changes recommended dealt with clarification of the offices of county surveyors and county engineer, creation of a "county-wide highway planning board," conduct and duties of officers, and the status of townships in counties where they are retained as units of government.

One-Tenth Bridge Damage Repaired—

Bridge damage in Southeast Nebraska's catastrophic May 8 floods have been replaced under the \$125,000 emergency repair program, state officials have reported here.

Brig. Gen. Guy N. Henninger, state adjutant general, who directed administration of the federal grant, said the money would not "replace one-tenth of the flood damage." But many of the washed-out bridges were little used and no longer vital to the counties' transportation. "Even so," he said, "it would take a million dollars to replace all the necessary bridges and that will be done slowly by the counties as they are able."

Henninger said the residents of the stricken counties—Johnson, Saline, Nemaha, Otoe and Cass are "exceptionally well pleased with the program."

Short, Short Stories—

About 175 Nebraska towns are eligible for state and federal money during the next three years for airport construction, according to James D. Ramsey, state aeronautics department director.

Nebraska harvested a bumper crop of babies during June, July and August, state health department records show. The three-month total was 8,401, compared to 8,210 last year. August births totaled 2,973, highest month on record.

Revenue collected last month of the state liquor commission amounted to \$182,034, the commission's monthly report shows.

Go to Neligh—

Mr. and Mrs. Dale Buckmaster and children, Buz Hill and Miss Orra McMath, of Winner, S. D., went to Neligh Sunday, November 12, to visit Mr. and Mrs. Frank Hill.

AUCTIONS AT CREIGHTON
Col. Ed Thorin, Chambers auctioneer, was called to Creighton Tuesday to conduct a special livestock auction sale.

Plan Yule Party—

CHAMBERS — Mrs. Lloyd Glead entertained the Valley Center project club at her home on

Friday afternoon, November 10.

Fourteen members and four visitors were present. The president, Mrs. Guais Win-

termote, conducted the business session. She also reported on the achievement day program held in O'Neill. Plans for a Christmas

party were discussed.

It was decided to collect coffee labels and give to the president before December 15.

The lesson on "Cooking Less Tender Cuts of Meat" was presented by the leaders, Mrs. Ed Harvey and Mrs. John Blair.

Mrs. Vern Sageser, of Amelia, was present to talk on the trip she took to Biloxi, Miss., to attend the national meeting of home demonstration clubs.

Refreshments were served by the hostess. The next meeting will be December 15 at the home of Mrs. Charles Grimes.

Friends of St. Mary's Plan Business Meeting—

A business meeting of the Friends of St. Mary's will be held Monday evening, November 20, at 7:30 o'clock in the gymnasium at the academy.

Committee in charge includes Mr. and Mrs. Cletus Sullivan and Misses Helen and Hilda Gallagher. The public is invited.

Witness Game—

Mr. and Mrs. M. J. Golden went to Lincoln Saturday, November 11, to attend the Kansas State-Nebraska football game.

Frontier for printing!

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Good Cattle Run Forecast

- Another large cattle run is expected today (Thursday) at the O'Neill Livestock Market. Already in the yards are 100 head of 700-pound whiteface yearling steers—extra good quality and all from the same herd. There will be several other nice consignments of steer and heifer calves and the usual run of stock cows of steer and heifer calves and the usual run of stock cows and
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