

**Capitol News -**

**Moulton, Thompson are Candidates For Speaker of the Legislature**

By Melvin Paul  
Statehouse Correspondent  
The Nebraska Press Association LINCOLN—Support is beginning to build up among state senators for the post of speaker of the 1961 Legislature. This is not only an honorary position, recognizing service of a lawmaker in the Unicameral, but a functional one as well. The speaker's main duty is presiding over the Legislature in the absence of the lieutenant governor.

State Sen. William Moulton of Omaha and Sen. Don Thompson of McCook appear to be front-runners for this job when the 1961 regular session convenes January 3. The current speaker, Sen. Harry Pizer of North Platte, has retired from politics.

There is also reported to be considerable activity behind the scenes pointing toward chairmanships of the important standing committees of the Legislature. These are the groups that originally hear bills aired at public hearings, then make recommendations to the entire Legislature.

The special session this week was concerned with pay of the state senators. It is expected to end early next week. Members of the session were those elected in 1958. The new solons begin their work January 3, and will get higher pay as a result of work of the current special session.

Among the top problems of the 1961 session will be reapportionment of Congressional districts, whether to broaden the state's tax base and disposition of the problem of whether to change the Board of Control which governs state institutions.

**Education Funds**  
An emergency appropriation will be required by the State Department of Education to operate the schools for the Deaf at Omaha and the Blind at Nebraska City.

Dr. F. B. Decker, commissioner of education, said the request—the first by the department—was prompted by the department taking over the two schools in July from the Board of Control. There was considerable controversy preceding transfer of the schools to the department.

**State Spending**  
The Nebraska Citizens Council, a private tax research has looked into the problem of state spending over a 10-year period.

Some of the findings are startling. The Council, for instance, discovered that 35% more money is being spent by state government today for postage than 10 years ago. The total for the fiscal year ending last July was \$237,759. Use of the telephone and telegraph has climbed 127 per cent from 1950, the Council reports.

Travel expense of state employees went up 53 per cent during the decade, a lesser amount than most of the other categories.

Those expenses show up in state spending records as "operating expenses." There are 13 separate items in the category, dealing with communication, printing and transportation publishing, printing and advertising, heat, light and power and miscellaneous expenses.

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**Fire Code**  
A new fire code for Nebraska is continuing to kick up controversy at educational institutions. The latest to complain was the University of Nebraska which said the regulations would require expenditure of \$1.6 million if they are compiled with across the board.

Previously objecting were the state teachers colleges at Wayne, Chadron, Peru and Kearney. They have expenditures of a quarter of a million dollars to meet the requirements. Neither the colleges nor the University included the expenditures in budget requests for 1961-63 spending.

Fire Marshal Joe Divis says school officials should blame their own organizations, not him, if they feel the fire rules are not proper. Divis said five of the eight members of the committee that wrote the regulations represented school groups and agencies.

The marshal said he is not in full agreement with the regulations but by law he must enforce them which he is doing. The rules were adopted July 1, 1959 and have the force of law. Deadline for complying was September 1 of this year.

One of the main complaints against the rules is that they require addition of fire detection or other type equipment to recently built structures that were considered fire-safe when constructed.

Divis said he feels the rules are too strict in some respects and do not allow enough area for an exercise of judgment by his inspectors.

**Standby Legislators**  
Nebraska senators are expected to begin announcing soon stand-by legislators under a new law now in effect. The law is designed to provide Nebraska with continuity of government in the event of an emergency and the regular senator is unable to serve.

This law and three other associated measures were passed by the 1959 Legislature but could not become effective until passage by voters of a Constitutional amendment. Sen. Joe Vosoba of Wilber was the first solon to name substitute legislators.

**Inman News**  
By Mrs. James McMahan

Neighborhood club members held their Christmas party at the home of Mrs. Leonard Halstead December 5. A luncheon was served by the hostess. In the afternoon a business meeting was held and a gift exchange was enjoyed. The rest of the afternoon was spent in doing handiwork. There were eight members and one visitor present. The next meeting will be January 4 with Mrs. Wilbur Brown as hostess.

Mrs. Hubert Kiser entered St. Anthony's hospital Thursday and submitted to major surgery Friday.

James Sholes went to Grand Island to the Veterans hospital Tuesday and returned home Friday afternoon.

Marvin Stewart returned home Thursday from Amelia, where he has been employed by Raymond Bly for several months.

David Sobotka, a student at Norfolk Junior college, spent the weekend visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Sobotka.

Mr. and Mrs. James Banks and son, Roger, attended funeral at Chambers Thursday.

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Schunk and family and Mrs. Paul Roth of Atkinson visited Mr. and Mrs. James Banks and Roger and John Schunk Sunday afternoon. Mr. and Mrs. Albert Anthony

and family visited Mr. and Mrs. Gene Zimmerman and twin daughters at Ewing Saturday evening.

Mrs. Lewis F. Kopecky, Mrs. Clifford Sobotka and Mrs. Woodrow Gaughenbaugh spent Tuesday in Norfolk.

Mr. and Mrs. Fay Brittel and daughter of Atkinson and Mr. and Mrs. M. M. Crosser and sons of Neligh visited Mr. and Mrs. Dav-

id Morsbach and Mary Sunday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Morsbach of Clearwater visited his mother, Mrs. Elizabeth Morsbach Sunday afternoon.

Dick Coventry of Omaha spent the weekend visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Coventry. Carolyn Reimers, a student nurse at St. Vincent's hospital spent the weekend visiting her

parents, Mr. and Mrs. Chris Reimers.

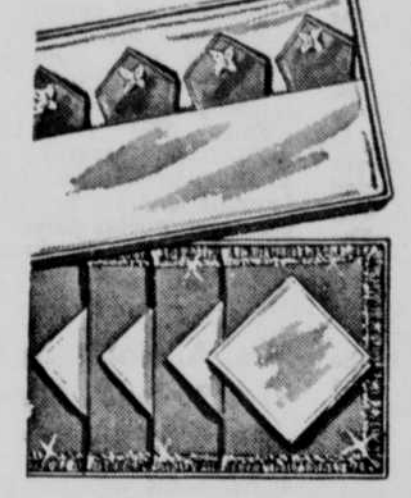
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