

# 'PantyRaid' Disgraceful, Ill-Timed

LINCOLN—The legislature this week was facing the growing problems of school finance and reorganization.

Although the spotlight often is on roads and other phases of government, ultimately the schools a magnetic pole around which a great many other considerations may have to align themselves.

This is for two reasons—more and more children in this "baby boom" postwar era and therefore more and more costs in operating the schools.

This means greater portions of tax money will be needed for the schools. Since the cost of other subdivisions of government show no signs of decreasing, this means more taxes, period.

The continuing teacher shortage will necessitate higher teachers salaries. The ever increasing enrollments in some areas will inevitably mean more buildings at additional cost to the taxpayer.

When you add in the University of Nebraska with its spiraling costs as it strives to stay even with similar institutions of higher learning, you can see why a lot of things are involved.

Reorganization—A possible step forward may have come when the legislature education committee by a 5-4 vote sent to the floor of the legislature a stricter redistricting bill.

At the hearing it was repeatedly said that a lot of Nebraska's troubles are because she has so many school districts. With about 6,000 districts Nebraska has more than any other state in the Union. This means a demand for too many school districts. With about 6,000 districts Nebraska has more

than any other state in the union. This means a demand for too many teachers plus the keeping of far too many inefficient districts.

The bill voted to the floor was LB 398, it would require that if a county reorganization committee doesn't do something concrete within the next two years it will be dissolved and another committee elected.

This is to budge some committees which have boasted they were elected to see that nothing was done about redistricting in their county. Also, it would require all county plans to be okayed by the state committee.

Opposition to redistricting comes from areas which fear it will put everybody into a town school and futher dissolve rural community life. Also, it comes from farmers who understandably hesitate to pay higher taxes.

Undoubtedly it also comes from the 1,700 districts which don't pay and levy for general school purposes.

State Aid—This latter was brought out at a hearing on LB 496, which would appropriate out of state funds money for local school districts.

School association officials testifying for this bill said it shouldn't be voted to the floor of the legislature unless a sales or income tax is passed. They said they didn't want to pile more taxes on property.

But Don Kline of the Nebraska State Education association said that something must be done to help the 30 school districts in the biggest towns which are getting 80 percent of the increased enrollment these days. He said this was a statewide responsibility.

Harry Burke of Omaha said that Nebraska, which is about average among the states in wealth, is 44th in what it spends on schools.

Kline also pointed out that if the states don't do a good job of financing their schools the federal government is sure to step in.

All of this may tie in with the question of passing a sales or income tax. At least advocates of "broadening the tax base" ask whether we can continue to pile these growing taxes on property alone.

University Budget—In some areas the question might be, "Can we afford not to pay more money for their budgets?"

For example, the growing talk that Nebraska might get an atomic power plant. If it does, one factor bringing it here will be the extensive atomic experiments at the University of Nebraska the past few years.

Should Nebraska get such a plant it might be the most significant event in its entire history. Nebraska might grab a lead in the field of agriculture experimentation that could be all-important in all its future history.

Those who have studied the possibilities glow when they talk of what might come. With atomic ashes experiments to get mutations of plants may bring wonders untold in higher producing crops. Experimentation with meat and food processing would also be possible.

The university on a limited scale has been experimenting along several of these lines since the war.

When the legislature comes to consider the big increased budget the university is asking (\$3.8 million more up to an \$18.8 million total), this will be a factor that can't be pushed aside.

Will it be wise to save pennies and possibly lose millions? On the other hand, how much higher can the tax burden be piled? All of these questions—of such importance for the future—will be involved in the debate on the school bills and in consideration of budget items for educational institutions.

A so-called "panty raid" on the university campus last Thursday shocked not only the legislators but the state. Nine male participants were summarily dismissed and 50 more are under investigation.

The raid was ill-timed in consideration of the university's fiscal problems. One state senator, visiting the campus, got caught in the melee and took a dim view of the "panty rally".

Pen Change—The latest step in a long series of events at the state penitentiary was the resigning of Warden Herbert Hann after six years. He had been under fire repeatedly during his career but apparently resigned of his own volition. Appointed to his place was Joseph Doye, 49, of Lincoln, who the past three months has been state-house custodian. Prior to that he was a traveling salesman.

Doye had had 10 years of experience in federal prison administration. But the aspect that worried some people was that the hand of Gov. Victor Anderson could be seen in the appointment.

Under the present constitutional setup the state board of control, which runs the penitentiary as

well as other state institutions, is supposed to be a separate entity. It was established that way in 1913 to take it out of politics and to halt the possibility of political appointments of institution officials by the governor.

Regardless of the merits of Doye and the board of control, there were some who had doubts about the wisdom of the governor crossing that line. In other words, it might be fine in this case but it is setting a precedent where an unscrupulous governor might use this as a form of patronage?

Tom Mile—One of the hottest bills of the session, LB 362, calling for a weight-distance tax on big trucks, brought out some good arguments from both sides.

Former Gov. Robert Crosby, speaking for the Better Nebraska association, said there is a crying need for more money for roads. It logically should come from the big trucks which cause the need for thicker pavements and heavier bridges, he contended.

But representatives of the truckers groups said that the big trucks, which comprise one third of one percent of all motor vehicles, pay 22 percent of all license fees. This means they are paying their share, they said.

They also said that passing a ton-mile tax in Nebraska and enforcing it against out-of-state trucks would only mean that other states would retaliate by charging the same tax against Nebraska trucks. This would add a great cost to Nebraska shippers they said.

The truckers also said that Nebraska would lose a lot of license plate money from out-of-state trucking firms which buy their tags here because there is now such good reciprocity with other states.

Crosby said he thought one reason why many trucking firms domicile in Nebraska is because they have found school districts where the tax is excessively low.

## O'Neill News

Pvt. David Eby and his mother, Mrs. Raymond Eby, spent Wednesday, April 13, in Ainsworth at the home of his grandmother, Mrs. Alma Eby. He visited from Friday until Sunday in Wayne. Fremont and Omaha with former classmates at Wayne State college.

Dr. and Mrs. O. W. French were dinner guests Sunday at the home of his brother and sister-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Merwyn French, sr., in Page. Other guests were Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Brobst of Council Bluffs, Ia. Mr. Brobst is an uncle of Doctor and Merwyn French. The Brobsts plan to visit in O'Neill at a later date.

Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Benson, Mr. and Mrs. Blake Benson and Stanley met Mrs. Hugh Benson's father, John Tiefenthaler of Butte, in Beemer Sunday. His daughter, Miss Mae, and Mrs. Erwin Benson brought him from Omaha where he had come by plane from Oakland, Calif., to Beemer. He has been visiting since November in Oakland with his son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Larry Pandorf, his daughter, Miss Margaret, and his son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. N. P. Tiefenthaler.

P. J. Donohue of Bonesteel, S. D., and William Brennan of Butte were Saturday luncheon guests at the home of Attorney Donohue's brother-in-law and sister, Dr. and Mrs. Edward M. Gleeson. Mr. and Mrs. Donald Nissen and family of Page were Sunday dinner guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Eby.



Kearney State Teachers college trumpet trio (above) . . . to be featured in "Bugler's Holiday" O'Neill concert, 3 p.m., Thursday, April 28. Left-to-right: Allen Farm, Wilcox, freshman; Don Munson, Kearney, freshman; Joyce Springer, Phillips, sophomore.

## Chambers News

Mary and Jacqueline Taggart of Omaha came Saturday and visited until Sunday with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. L. W. Taggart.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Lidgett and son, Donald, drove to Huron, S.D., Saturday where they visited her mother, Mrs. Malone, and other relatives. They returned on Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. L. V. Cooper and Mrs. C. E. Tibbets drove to Bonesteel, S.D., Saturday morning where they met their niece, Mrs. Hale Osborne. They drove from Bonesteel to Sioux City and back to Winner Saturday, returning Sunday.

Dean Fleming of Atkinson was guest speaker at the Amelia and Chambers Methodist churches on Sunday.

Mrs. Ed Hoffman and children of Neligh visited Friday with her sister, Mrs. Alfred Maas, and niece, Mrs. Orville Svatos. She attended extension club meeting at the Svatos home. Mr. Hoffman came for them in the evening.

The Billy Graham film, "Oil Town, U.S.A.," which was shown at the high school gymnasium on Sunday evening, drew a large crowd. It was sponsored by the Baptist Memorial church.

Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Walter drove to Central City Friday to bring their daughter, Marilyn Walter, home for the weekend.

The senior class of the Chambers high school presented the comedy play, "Let Me Out of Here." The play was well-presented and drew a large crowd.

## Kearney State

### Band to Appear

### Concert Also at Butte Next Week

Five Nebraska towns will be on the itinerary for the 70-piece concert band from Kearney State Teachers college Thursday and Friday, April 28 and 29.

Director Robert House will conduct the concerts Thursday, April 28, at St. Paul (10 a.m.); O'Neill, (3 p.m.) and Butte (8 p.m.), and on Friday, April 29, at Neligh, (10:30 p.m.); and Fullerton (3 p.m.). Included on the program will be Leroy Anderson's "Bugler's Holiday", arranged for a trumpet trio; Cop-

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land's "Outdoor Overture"; selections from "Porgy and Bess", by George Gershwin; Holst's "First Suite for Band"; the "Polka and Fugue" from Schwanda, by Weinberger; and two brilliant marches, Goldman's "On the Mall" and "March of the Steel Men," by Belsterling.

Concert-goers also will be treated to a delightful and humorous contrast in the composition "The Man Who Invented Music." Scored quite recently by NBC composer-arranger Don Gilis, the number uses a narrator in the guise of "Grandfather" explaining to the granddaughter,

"Wendy" how he invented music—incidentally developing melody, harmony, sharps, flats, radio, dance music and march music along the way.

Two recent graduates of Kearney State will be on hand for two and Don Zimmerman, 1951 graduate who directs the Butte high school music program, and Don Zimmerman, 1952 graduate who is now band director at Fullerton high school.

Mrs. Henry Schlueter and Rick spent from Friday until Sunday in Abie visiting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Franta.

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