

MAR 4 1963

Simmons Attacks Nebraskan

Attorney Answers Staff In Telephone Interview

Charges Undue Liberal Views

EDITOR'S NOTE: The questions were called to Mr. Simmons Sunday morning. He chose to take down the questions and answer them in a later telephone conversation Sunday afternoon. When Mr. Simmons called back with the answers, members of the Nebraskan editorial staff tried to record the answers as accurately as possible under the conditions of a rapid-fire telephone conversation. Except using the possibility that inaccuracies do occur under such circumstances, the Nebraskan will run in its next edition what Mr. Simmons says as he really said in meaning by our paraphrasing.

In an hour-long telephone interview with the editorial staff of the Daily Nebraskan yesterday afternoon Ray Simmons answered the following questions concerning his statement that the Daily Nebraskan for five semesters has presented an extremely liberal viewpoint.

The questions asked Simmons are boldfaced. His answer to each question, reported as accurately as possible under conditions of a rapid-fire telephone conversation, follows directly.

1.) You mentioned that the students at the University of Nebraska are "being openly and deliberately indoctrinated with controversial and extreme political philosophies rejected by the overwhelming majority of Nebraskans of both political parties. What do you feel is the political philosophy accepted by the overwhelming majority of Nebraskans?"

Nebraska is basically conservative. The newspaper (Daily Nebraskan) of a tax supported school has no right to present one view as opposed to the other without giving the other.

Examples of the extreme philosophy are the treatment given to unilateral disarmament, ridicule of the House Un-American Activities Committee, recognition in the United Nations of the People's Republic of Germany and the Democratic Republic of China, and the lack of complete details in reporting the St. Onge affair. This is directed toward editorial cartoons and articles, not news stories.

2.) If the University stu-

No Tax Support Says NU Official

State tax funds are not used to support the Daily Nebraskan as Ray Simmons, ex-state senator, asserts in an attack on the newspaper and its policies, according to a University official.

Simmons said Sunday that the Nebraskan is a tax supported newspaper which is the voice of the University and therefore belongs to the tax-paying citizens of the state.

He asserted three ways in which the Nebraskan is, indirectly, tax supported: 1) University students are required to pay a fee of \$1 a semester for the Nebraskan as part of their tuition; 2) Facilities of the University—that is, a room in the Student Union—are utilized by the Nebraskan, and 3) the salaries of faculty members who act as advisers to the publication are paid by the University, and hence the state.

Refuting Simmons' assertions, the University official said:

"Professor Neale Cottle (current advisor to the newspaper) renders service as an adviser without extra pay, over and above his regular assigned duties as a full time member of the faculty.

"The \$1 a semester fee paid by the students to defray the costs of the newspaper is in no sense a part of the tuition paid by the student," the official continued.

"It is exactly like the special fee paid for student health services, for facilities and services of the Nebraska Union, and for retirement of bonds which financed the costs of the Student Health Center and the addition to the Nebraska Union.

"These fee payments are separately earmarked for the specific uses mentioned and are handled in their entirety outside the budget of the University."

Construction of the Student Union was financed by non-tax funds, noted the official.

The charges made by Simmons were commented on by

idents are being constantly indoctrinated with liberalism, why did they give Seaton one-third more votes than Morrison in the mock election? Why did they defeat Kennedy?

In 1960 the University and the paper opposed Republican gubernatorial candidate John Cooper and he was beaten in a Nebraska University poll.

In 1962 there was no opposition to Fred Seaton and students did support him. He won the mock election. This is an indication of the student newspaper's influence on students.

Nebraska University is a tax supported school. The student newspaper, supported by taxes, has no business taking part in political issues.

The Daily Nebraskan is supported by taxes for several reasons. Among those are the facts that the students must pay \$1 a semester for the paper, the paper utilizes University facilities and faculty members are its advisers.

It is immaterial whether the tax funds go directly into the paper or the money comes from the students.

3.) Why did the liberals on the campus defeat such a liberal issue as affiliation with the National Student Association by a 19-10 vote?

I was surprised that the NSA received as much support as it did in the first place.

4.) Do you realize that a majority of the articles, cartoons and editorials which you chose to criticize were of nationally-syndicated origin? Don't you feel that you are also indicting metropolitan newspapers across the country?

No, not at all. A private paper has the right to print what it wants, but the Daily Nebraskan is a tax supported paper.

Do you feel it is proper for a tax supported paper to take

other University officials, Governor Frank Morrison, and a number of other persons outside the University.

Simmons charged that his complaints to the University administration have been "totally ignored".

Regent Richard E. Adkins of Osmond said in response, "I have always been available to Ray Simmons and have always furnished any information requested."

The Regent also said "that I've encouraged him to come to the Board of Regents prior to making a public statement."

Dr. Adam C. Breckenridge, University vice chancellor, commented: "A University newspaper should be free to deal objectively with any subject, as long as it is done responsibly."

Chancellor Clifford Hardin is out-of-town until tomorrow. Governor Frank Morrison said:

"Never since I have been Governor has anyone come to my office with a complaint that the faculty or anyone else was dictating the editorial policies of the Daily Nebraskan. If there is any evidence to this effect, I hope that the evidence will be given to me."

"I believe in the American Constitution and as the Chief Executive of the State of Nebraska I have taken an oath of office to defend the Constitution of the State of Nebraska and the Constitution of the United States.

"I have a firm conviction that everybody, be he a conservative, liberal, or a middle-of-the-roader, has a right to free and uncensored expression of this point of view. The only restriction should be against the printing of matter which is morally degrading or untrue."

U.S. Senator Roman Hrus-

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a political stand?

5.) What do you feel is the role of the college newspaper? What do you feel is the role of the editor?

A college newspaper should present campus news. On issues outside the campus both sides should be presented accurately and fairly.

Classic examples of the Daily Nebraskan's exceptions to this principle are the St. Onge coverage, where the story was not told in whole, and the Barry Goldwater coverage.

In the Goldwater story there was little reference to his basic points. I am not surprised that he was given a poor reception on campus.

6.) You asked in your concluding paragraph, "How much longer will this situation continue to degenerate at the University of Nebraska? Exactly how do you define this degenerate situation?"

The degenerate situation is Continued on Page 3



SIMMONS . . . Releases a 32-page report asserting Daily Nebraskan liberalism.

By WENDY ROGERS
Nebraskan Copy Editor

A report charging that University students are being "indoctrinated with controversial and extreme political philosophies" in the campus newspaper was released Saturday by Ray Simmons, Fremont attorney and former state senator.

Simmons issued a 32-page booklet chiefly containing excerpts from the Daily Nebraskan including editorials, news stories and cartoons, during the Founder's Day meeting of the Republican Party.

Simmons took the floor at the state central committee session's conclusion and announced he had information which he thought the Republican Party should be interested in.

The Fremont attorney then passed out his booklet as committee members left the meeting.

The collection of excerpts, says Simmons in his report,

"shows a pattern which is clear and never changing. Students are being openly and deliberately indoctrinated with political philosophies rejected by the overwhelming majority of Nebraskans of both political parties.

"And, all of this is being done with the taxes paid by Nebraskan citizens."

According to Simmons' booklet, "whenever complaints have been made about the University, the administration has either totally ignored them or issued a blanket denial that anything is possibly wrong.

"University spokesmen answer with terms like 'academic freedom' and 'censorship' whenever anyone protests questionable activities at the University.

"However, it is clear that the term 'academic freedom' in the eyes of the University means freedom to give our young people only the 'liberal' viewpoint and to discredit the 'conservative' viewpoint."

The report asserts that Nebraskan political cartoons or articles "favoring such controversial proposals as federal aid to education and federal medicare with absolutely nothing of the opposite viewpoint" are repeatedly given to University students.

"Is it 'censorship'?" continues the report, "for citizens to protest when their tax funds are used to tear down students' respect for their state, or are used to support one political party over the other, or one political philosophy, including such obvious techniques as printing 'liberal' slanted professional political cartoons and 'liberal' professional columns?"

In the conclusion to his report, Simmons says, "These influences upon our young people at our state University are a serious matter.

"When a student sees political cartoons, and everyone notices a cartoon, or reads a political column in the official University newspaper or hears faculty members continually express a particular political viewpoint, he naturally believes that this should be his viewpoint as well.

"He may be concerned about the risks to his own university career, and accordingly to his life career, if he expresses a contrary viewpoint.

"How much longer will this situation continue to degenerate at the University of Nebraska? How much longer will Nebraskans tolerate it?"

The excerpts used by Simmons to back his stated conclusions "appeared in the Nebraskan from the fall semester 1960 through the fall semester 1962, together with public comments of faculty members and students."

Simmons notes in his report that the Nebraskan "carries almost entirely news of the campus."

"Accordingly the items which are set forth occupy an especially high percentage of the off-campus items."

The booklet is divided into categories, each containing comments and specific examples.

Charges Listed

The following are examples of Simmons' charges and selections he cited to support those charges. The charges are in boldfaced type. The selections follow in each case.

"Anti-Communists are ridiculed in political cartoons:

"Early in 1961 began a massive national campaign to discredit the growing grassroots anti-communist movement in the United States . . .

"The Daily Nebraskan supported this anti-anti-Communist campaign with enthusiasm from the start, with paid professional cartoons and columns and student editorials. The campaign continues to date.

"From late 1960 to date the Nebraskan has carried political cartoons by a professional political cartoonist. These have followed the 'liberal' political line. Also these have

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'Students Will No Longer Be Used As Political Whipping Boys'—Dr. Hall

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following is a statement released by two University professors in the School of Journalism Saturday afternoon after Simmons' statement was heard.

Statement by Dr. William E. Hall, director, School of Journalism.

"Were it not for the fact that I refuse to allow students at this University to be used any longer as political whipping boys, I would dignify Mr. Simmons' irresponsible charges with an answer.

"I will say this. Had any student in the School of Journalism prepared such a report based on half-truths, distortions, one-sided evidence, and statements taken out of context, he would have received an "F" or failing grade for his efforts and would probably have been requested to withdraw from the program.

"To Mr. Simmons, the purpose of a University should be to indoctrinate rather than to educate, to control thought rather than to stimulate it.

"The cry he raises is not new. He would simply like to silence all who disagree with him.

"As Governor Gaylor A. Nelson of Wisconsin observed not too long ago before an assembly of students, "In our country the attack on freedom of speech and freedom of inquiry is frequently masked as a crusade against communist subversion."

"The young people associated with the Daily Nebraskan, the whole student body at this University, are as fine, as level-headed a group of young people as will be found anywhere in the world. They are the sons and daughters of Nebraska, the beneficiaries of a hard-headed common sense heritage.

"They are in no more danger of being misled by left-wing sympathizers than they are of being intimidated by the Mr. Simmons of the country.

"It is interesting to note that of the five editors

indicted, but not by name, in Mr. Simmons' charges, three are now serving Uncle Sam — two in the Armed Forces and one in the Peace Corps. The fourth will enter military service upon graduation in June, and the present editor seeks a career in public relations. Her brother, also a recent past Nebraskan editor, has served the Republican Party of Nebraska in many capacities since his graduation.

"Most readers making the effort to study the Daily Nebraskan during the past five-semester period, would reach, I believe, a far different conclusion from Mr. Simmons'. However, their chore would be somewhat more difficult; he sought only those items that tended to confirm his pre-determined indictment.

"I submit also that readers would reach an additional conclusion. Their study would show that the student journalists, in virtually every case, made a determined effort to be fair."

Statement by Prof. R. Neale Cottle, School of Journalism and Daily Nebraskan adviser.

"As adviser to the Daily Nebraskan and the Cornhusker, I concur with Dr. Hall's statement. I know many of the youngsters who work on the Nebraskan very well, and am proud of them. It is unfair for anyone to attack them or their newspaper by presenting only a partial picture. I understand that similar evidence in their presentation of the conservative view-point has been made available to the press. That is good. The people of Nebraska like to judge issues on the basis of a complete picture.

"In running their newspaper, these youngsters have been doing an excellent job of learning to present both sides of an issue. Editorially, as is the right of any editor, they have given their opinions. I certainly hope—and that is putting it rather mildly—that Mr. Simmons

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Dr. Nutzman Says Friction Is Resolved

"All friction was resolved," said Dr. William Nutzman, speaker for State Medical Association's House of Delegates, concerning Sen. Terry Carpenter's charge that the friction at the College of Medicine will cause the defeat of the special mill levy bill.

Nutzman made the statement following a meeting of the State Medical Association at the Cornhusker Hotel yesterday.

The House of Delegates discussed development plans for the University College of Medicine, he said.

No action was taken on the matter of development of the College, but it was referred to the standing committee of medical education of the Nebraska State Medical Association for further study which is necessary before any definite plans are made, he said. The report will be made at the meeting in May.

The Association endorses increased support for all plans concerning development plans for the University College of Medicine, but no specific action for any definite plans has been taken, emphasized Dr. Nutzman.



SEVIGNE GETS DUNKED—Husker track coach Frank Sevigne gets a dunking in motel pool in Kansas City after the track team won the Big Eight Indoor Track and Field Championship Saturday night. (For further pictures and details see page 4.)

Bishop Casey Will Lecture On Vatican II

Bishop James Casey, Roman Catholic bishop of Lincoln, will be on campus Thursday to speak on Vatican II.

For the past several months, Vatican II, or the Ecumenical Council, has been widely discussed and evaluated by news media.

Bishop Casey, who attended the two-month first session of the council, will analyze various aspects of the council and its accomplishments.

Three months after his election to the papacy, John XXIII announced the purpose of the council, and the Russians, whose communist ideology controls about one-half of the world's population, immediately branded it as a "religious Atlantic pact," according to a national magazine.

The council has vast powers to bring about revisions of both church laws and administration, and the Pope expects much to result from it, the article said. One of his principal desires is a "bringing up to date" of the church, letting it come to terms with its own times.

This very problem is one of the main criticisms leveled against Roman Catholics by their fellow Christians, it continued.