

State Department Team Visits Campus

A 4-member State Department team was in Lincoln last week to explain the Kennedy administration's foreign policy aims.

The team, headed by U. Alexis Johnson, deputy under secretary of state, appeared at a press conference Wednesday evening, and Thursday spoke to a selected group of Nebraskans during a morning discussion session and a noon luncheon. Summer students at the University heard from the team at an afternoon convocation.

Other member of the briefing team were: Daniel Montenegro, director of the department's office of public services; Raymond Barrett, member of the Office of Eastern and South African affairs; and Chester Merrow, special adviser to the Department on community relations.

Summer Nebraskan reporters scheduled special interviews with the four members of the team. During the interviews, the reporters asked the men questions relating to their specialized fields in the Department of State.

U. Alexis Johnson
Johnson, who as U.S. SEATO Council representative, has had experience sitting across the negotiating table from the Communist Chinese, stated:

"None can deny that Communist China is a formidable and dark shadow. However, at the risk of over-simplification, let me say that it no longer appears as formidable or even as black as it did a few years ago.

He explained that when he returned to Southeast Asia in 1958, Communist China had just announced its "Great Leap Forward." He mentioned that fear went through that area that Communist China would accomplish the

miracles of economic construction that it set as its goal, and thus, by example and influence alone, overwhelm those seeking to pursue the free way.

However, according to Johnson, Communist China did not accomplish those miracles. Per capita food production has been falling in mainland China, as compared generally with its rise in the free countries of Asia. Johnson further explained that industrial production lagged rather than "leaping forward" and the rates compare very unfavorably with the larger free countries such as Japan, and India, and even with some of the smaller countries.

Johnson also commented that "the picture of the two stalwart giants — the Soviet Union and Communist China — marching shoulder to shoulder to conquer all that lay before them also has been fading fast. Not that both of them are still Communist, but they no longer present that picture of shoulder-to-shoulder unity in carrying out their objectives. Their quarrels have broken into the open and are indeed deep.

He added that all Soviet economic, and apparent most, if not all, military assistance to China has been stopped.

Raymond Barrett
The real objective of this country's foreign policy in Africa is to help the people obtain the educational training which they so badly need, according to Raymond J. Barrett.

Barrett said that there are over 5,000 African students attending American colleges and universities. The schools themselves, church groups, and foundation have a large part in bringing the students to the United States.

"Most of them go home with reasonably good impressions of this country," Barrett said. The Africans are fairly mature about U.S. race problems, he added, but often repeat to us our own phrase, "government of the people, by the people, and for the people," as a reminder of our difficulties.

Barrett, who has been with the Foreign Service since 1949, said that our aid program, administered by the Agency for International Development, provides African universities with scholarships. The big problem is shortage of money for cost of tuition, since the governments do not have funds to furnish free schooling.

In Africa, a tremendous amount of history that took the West 100 to 150 years to pass through, has been telescoped into less than ten years, Barrett said. This could have been extremely dangerous had not the majority of countries chosen to back peaceful progress. He pointed out.

"If Africa was denied to us, even if not controlled by the Communists, great problems would be posed for the free world," Barrett said. During the Cuban crisis, he added, no African leaders lined up with Russia. Many sided with the U.S. and would not permit Soviet planes to fly over their territory. In some cases, this prevented the Russians from flying missiles directly to Cuba, Barrett added.

Barrett warned that our biggest chance for losing Africa to the Communists stems from the racial problems in the southern African countries. He predicts that the African nations will push for an arms embargo through the United Nations this fall, aimed at the Union of South Africa.

To date, the U.S. has opposed economic boycotts of South Africa, Barrett said, but the other African countries are now asking us, "All right, you oppose apartheid. What are you going to do about it?"

Peaceful demonstrations have been tried, but don't always work, Barrett said. He pointed out that this country's position is complicated by American business there and trade with South Africa.

Barrett said that the Africans are trying to help themselves in setting up new educational facilities. On June 28, the new University of East Africa will be formally dedicated. Uganda, Kenya, and Tanganyika have joined together to form the new school, and each of the three countries will have a campus, Barrett said.

The U.S. consulates and embassies in these countries attempt to get Africans, who are apparently going to be future leaders, to come to this country for education, Barrett said. He added that it is "hard for many Africans to understand our federal system of government because



BRIEFING TEAM—Barrett (from left), Merrow, Johnson and Montenegro.

they haven't had any experience with such a thing."

Chester Merrow

Americans are interested in foreign relations but they should be "more interested to get the true picture of foreign policy," said Chester Merrow.

Merrow feels the Department is doing its best to inform the American people of foreign policy. However, more should be done, he said.

Other Methods

Besides the briefing team the Department uses background meetings for the press in Washington, speakers and regional conferences in order to instruct the public on our foreign policy. The briefing team gets "closest to the

grass roots," Merrow said.

News media could do much better in explaining the "reason why" of foreign policy, Merrow said. "The full facts ought to be reported," he said. "Impressions can be misleading."

Daniel Montenegro

"There is a growing realization of interdependence among the peoples of Far Eastern countries," stated Daniel Montenegro.

A specialist on Europe and the Pacific Area, he feels the time may well come when a mutual aid pact among free Asian people will be formed similar in philosophy and aims to those of NATO member countries.

"With political maturation and the growing threat of Chinese communism, Free Asia is increasingly aware of the nearness of the Chinese war machine being assembled. The old picture of an agrarian, uncoordinated China is fast disappearing," he explained.

Montenegro, who served in the mid-1950's as American consul in New Caledonia, says, "Much must still be a matter of conjecture, but alarms have sounded all over the sprawling Far East, helped in large part by China's assault on India, to warn 'uncommitted' countries the area that a concert of determination of common dangers and mutual aid is advisable."

Professors Comment

The large number of African students in this country could have an important bearing on future relations between the United States and Africa, according to F. W. Houn, associate professor of political science.

Houn, who specializes in the field of international relations agreed with Raymond J. Barrett of the U.S. State Department on the importance of the impressions which the students, many of whom are expected to become future leaders of their countries, receive while studying here.

In commenting on Barrett's prediction of an attempted economic boycott against the Union of South Africa, Houn pointed out that "if the trade volume between this country and South Africa is substantial enough, difficulties will be encountered from business interests who would oppose such a boycott."

Pressures against England in regard to a boycott might not be as strong today as they would have been prior to South Africa's withdrawal from the British Commonwealth in 1961, Houn said. He added that economic ties could possibly cause the English to abstain from any United Nations vote on a boycott.

Houn agreed with Barrett that the principle of aid to Africa is a good one. "We can't be alone in this world," he said.

Now the aid program is administered determines its success, Houn said. He added that not being an expert on Africa specifically, he was not prepared to comment on the effectiveness of the program.

Nebraskans became more conscious of their direct relationship to foreign affairs by attending the sessions conducted by the U.S. State Department briefing team, according to Dr. James C. Olson, chairman of the history department.

Although Nebraskans traditionally are looked upon as isolationists, an awareness of their direct involvement in foreign affairs has been growing throughout the state, Dr. Olson observed.

"Nebraskans, particularly through the University, have many opportunities to inform themselves. More people should take advantage of those opportunities," Dr. Olson said.

Constant study and exposure to the problems of foreign affairs increase awareness. "There's no substitute for education," he said.

"We need to devote more attention to foreign languages and histories of countries other than the United States. The University has taken the leadership in this area. The exchange program with El Colegio de Mexico is an important step," Dr. Olson concluded.

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Participants in the civil rights parade set out on their march.

In Nebraska . . .

Who Makes Cities' Decisions?

EDITORS NOTE: The following story is another of those produced for the University's depth report class in the School of Journalism. Following Lincoln approval of the full time mayor proposal, Linda Jensen, senior in the School of Journalism, tried to find out who makes the decisions in eight Nebraska cities. The cities studied were chosen primarily because they represented different forms of city government, modifications within one form. This story is being reprinted because we felt that many of Nebraska's social studies teachers might be interested in the findings which resulted from extensive research of Nebraska city governments.

By LINDA JENSEN

Who makes the decisions in Nebraska city governments?

Is it the Chamber of Commerce?

Is it the newspaper?

Is it a political party?

Is it the voter? The mayor? The city council?

As Lincoln voters approved, in November, the change to a full-time mayor, it seemed appropriate in the wake of election-time charges and counter-charges to find out, if possible, who really makes the decisions in Nebraska cities.

Seven cities, besides Lincoln, were chosen for examination because of their geographic locations and their types of city government. A political science probe was applied to the opinions of leading citizens in Columbus, Grand Island, Hastings, Lincoln, Nebraska City, North Platte, Omaha and Scottsbluff.

While none of them represented a majority, some of the contradictory, startling answers were:

"The Chamber of Commerce tells our mayor and council what to do."

"Nobody tells our mayor and council what to do."

"Our mayor and council read the newspapers before they decide."

"Our mayor and council do just the opposite of what the newspapers tell them to do."

Those were minority opinions, however. If it was possible to find any one majority opinion, it was that the voters make the decisions through their elected mayors and council members.

But, there are decisions and there are decisions. The major divisions, however, are legislative and administrative decisions. Legislative decisions establish policy and make law. Administrative decisions govern the community under the law. The Rev. Ward Conklin, one of the leaders questioned in Scottsbluff, divides the decisions into "what to do directives" (legislative) and "how to do directives" (administrative).

At the state and national level of government it is

not too difficult to understand who makes which kind of decision. Legislative bodies make law, and elected executives, such as governors and presidents, administer them.

At the county level there is sometimes confusion because the county board members or commissioners seem to be a legislative body. However, they are primarily administrative since they make no law. They must operate under the law already established by the state legislature.

But at the city level it is not nearly so simple. Here, the "who-to-do" and the "how-to-do" duties seem to merge. And here it becomes a popular pastime to theorize that anyone from the city hall janitor to the richest man in town really makes the decisions.

And while this may be a good cold-weather sport, students of government quickly emphasized the importance of local government. They explain that there the citizen is closest to his government. If he breaks a speed law, he is arrested by a city policeman he sees every day. If he gets stuck in the mud in front of his house, it may

be because the city council has not decided to pave.

"Local government," Dr. A. B. Winter, University of Nebraska political scientist, explains, "reconciles political, social, and economic conflicts in the local arena in much the same way as state legislatures and the national Congress reconcile conflicts on the state and national levels."

The kind of government you have in your town may help decide who arrests you when you drive too fast or whether your street is paved. Of the eight cities involved in this survey, six of them have mayor-council systems. However, in these cities — Columbus, Grand Island, Hastings, Lincoln, North Platte, and Omaha—there is considerable difference in who makes what decision. (Since the research for this story was done, Grand Island voters have approved a city manager government.)

Government Differences

For example, Omaha and Lincoln (after May, 1963) are the only towns with full-time mayors. And only in Columbus are the city officials elected on a party basis.

In the remaining two cities, Scottsbluff has a mayor and council plus a

city manager, and Nebraska City has the commission system under which three officials conduct the city's business.

With that background, let's see who makes the decisions.

To do it, let's talk in each community to the mayor, the superintendent of schools, an officer of the Chamber of Commerce, a representative of the clergy, the police chief, and the city attorney.

Let's see if we can really find out who is boss in these Nebraska cities.

First: Who, at least on the surface, is empowered to make the decisions?

City Councils

Generally, the city councils make the decisions in Nebraska city governments. In the case of Nebraska City, the commissioners do it.

All of the 41 people interviewed said that the mayor-council combinations have the final say in city affairs. However, seven of them gave some decision-making credit to the mayor because he is supposed to be better acquainted with the executive affairs of the city.

The mayor, in all of the towns under consideration,

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Freedom March Staged in Lincoln

Over two hundred civil rights demonstrators, mostly white, gathered in front of the Historical Society on the University Campus at 2:00 Friday afternoon and after hearing a prayer by Rev. Everett Reynolds in the memory of NAACP official Medgar Evers marched solemnly down 14th street to the State Capitol.

They were met at the Capitol by Omaha Senator Edward Danner, who standing beneath the statue of "The Great Emancipator" Abraham Lincoln for whom the city was named, gave a prepared talk on civil rights efforts here in Nebraska.

Senator Danner's talk centered on economic equality and the two recently killed legislative proposals—LB347, Fair Employment Law and LB596 the Fair Housing Law. Senator Danner raised such issues as the "heritage of freedom" and just what is "the American Way of Life?" "Freedom without equality is an illusion," said Senator Danner, and the "dignity of the individual person is at stake in this struggle for freedom with law."

Senator Danner described numerous incidences of discrimination against the negro

in employment opportunities and housing opportunities by the "unwritten law" of prejudice, bringing up such points as "how can we raise our children to become good citizens if we are denied the means by which to accomplish this end?"

An estimated three hundred persons followed the marchers and stood attentively with the demonstrators as Senator Danner spoke. The demonstration proceeded without incident; however, as the Lincoln City Police cleared the way and watched over the group.

The demonstration, according to Jerry Behringer, one of the leaders, was a community inspired one with the NAACP cancelling a previously scheduled demonstration for Sunday and joining his group on Friday.

Many of the students interviewed were friends of people who they believed had been discriminated against and were taking part to protect for them. The greater majority of the marchers were students although there were teachers, businessmen and a few children included in the group.