

Summer Nebraska



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Summer Nebraskan

Senators Defeat Budget Boost

Nebraska legislators refused yesterday to give more money from the general fund to the University.

The 13-27 negative vote blocked Sen. Terry Carpenter's attack to boost the University's allotment \$1 million. The Scottsbluff senator also proposed that the state teachers colleges and Milford Vocational Technical School be allotted more money.

From the General Fund money, the University was allotted \$31.5 million by the committee, normal schools were

given \$6.3 million and the Milford School appropriated \$543,851.

Carpenter later admitted that he had combined the three educational areas into a single amendment so that he could gain wider support from senators wanting more money for Milford and the state colleges.

However, Sens. Michael Russilo and Sam Klaver, both from Omaha, were able to obtain a division of the question so that each proposal will be voted upon separately rather

than under one amendment.

Carpenter in defending the added funds, stated that the University cannot forever vote down added expenditures for higher education. He then pointed out that added enrollment in the next biennium, 1,000 new students are expected the first year, would hamper the University's chances of being a first rate University.

Carpenter's motion on the floor received supporting speeches from Sens. Orin E. Fleming, Rasmussen, Payne, Reeves, and Warner.

Marvel said efforts of the Budget Committee since 1961 has brought about greater cooperation between the University and the committee.

For the past three years, he said, the Budget Committee and himself has "taken more heat" over the 1961 University budget than over anything else.

The battle within the Committee this biennium, according to Marvel, was whether to increase or decrease the allotment.

Marvel further pointed out that the overall University budget was larger than that recommended by the governor and that the committee has received no complaints from the University over what it has been allowed.

The main defender of the budget committee was Chairman Richard Marvel of Hastings, who explained how the committee arrived at its figures.

Marvel explained that budget preparations began with University officials as early as March 1962.

So intent is the debate on the University phase of the budget the senators refused by an 18-20 vote to halt debate on the issue just before the noon recess.

'Victory For Midwest'

ETV Bills Are Passed



PROPOSED ETV NETWORK—The Nebraska map above shows the proposed Nebraska educational television network. Passage of LB 666 and 667 by the state legislature last week makes possible the first steps toward activating what will be the largest VHF (very high frequency) network in the nation. Allocation in 1962 of five VHF channels and one UHF (ultra high frequency) channel at Albion, gave Nebraska the largest block of VHF channels. (VHF channels can be broadcasted to standard TV receivers.) In addition to the six-channel network shown above, UHF Channel 16, reserved for ETV in Omaha, will provide additional service.

The passage of two educational television bills by the Legislature last week earned "a victory for the Midwest," according to Mrs. Betty Davis, continuity and promotion director of KUON-TV, the University's educational television station.

Mrs. Davis pointed out that Kansas and Missouri legislatures have recently turned down proposals for educational television networks, but she added, "Now that Nebraska has taken the lead, other states in our area may follow."

With the passage of LB 666 and 667 came the assurance that a unique 7-station network will be developed. However, according to Jack McBride, general manager of

KUON-TV, it may be close to a year before the Channel 12 station will begin transmitting from Mead.

When the Mead transmitter is in operation, Channel 12, which is presently using only one-seventh of its transmitter strength, will serve about one-half of the state. At present, the station cannot be picked up in Omaha. Beatrice, to the south, is on the edge of the present receiving area, but with the Mead transmitter in operation, Channel 12 will be received as far south as Falls City.

LB 667 provides for a 9-member commission to oversee the television network. This commission membership will include the State Education Commission-

er, Normal Board Coordinator and the University Chancellor.

Gov. Frank Morrison will select the other commission members from the following fields: a representative of the Nebraska Council for ETV, a representative of private education in the state and a Board of Education member from Classes I, III, IV and V school districts.

LB 667 and LB 666 did not carry emergency clauses, so they will not go into effect until 90 days after the close of the present legislative session.

LB 666 appropriates \$600,000 for the television network for the biennium. If this sum is matched by the federal government, as is hoped, Mc-

Bride said that it would be possible to move KUON-TV to Mead, increase its transmitting power and also begin the Lexington station.

In a study last year, these were the first two steps outlined for Nebraska's ETV network. However, it will now be up to the commission as to what will be the first step.

Five stations of the 7-station network will be VHF channels — Mead, Lexington, Alliance, Bassett and North Platte. The other two, Omaha and Albion, will be UHF channels.

All commercial TV channels are VHF—very high frequency—and, at full power, these stations should transmit 50-75 miles from the point of transmission.

But a UHF, ultra high frequency, signal on the same power would travel effectively only 25 to 30 miles.

There are very few TV receivers across the country which are equipped to pick up UHF signals as well as the VHF transmissions.

McBride noted that no other state educational television network has 5 VHF channels at its disposal.

Special Tour

A privately conducted tour of the Sheldon Art Gallery, in conjunction with a discussion of the gallery's art work, will be given today at 1 p.m.

Norman Geske, director of the University art galleries, will speak to the History and Principles of Adult Education class members, however, the public is invited to attend the special session.

75 Are Attending Science Institute

The Summer Science Institute at the University is being conducted with 75 teachers, one third of whom are from outside the state, enrolled and participating in this unique study program, according to Dr. Wendell Gauger, administrator of the Institute.

"We offer regular university science courses at the sophomore and junior levels during the summer sessions to supplement the teaching requirements of high school teachers who feel their backgrounds in science are inadequate for the courses they are attempting to teach in their respective schools," commented Dr. Gauger.

These represent post-graduate courses to the teachers although they are not of the post-graduate curriculum," Gauger continued.

"The summer is an ideal time for this work," Dr. Gauger commented, "because of the weather which allows

us to schedule field trips which help considerably to supply the practical knowledge necessary to good teaching."

The Science Institute, a six year old program of the National Science Foundation, and wholly sponsored by the foundation, is carried on in nearly 400 universities across the country, said Dr. Gauger, and has proven highly successful. Dr. Gauger noted that out of 400 applicants only 75 could be accepted here at the University of Nebraska.

"The first requirement is that the teacher applicant must be presently teaching a science course," said Dr. Gauger. "This is in line with our primary objective to serve the teachers with the most prevalent needs first."

Even though the teachers are paid for taking this training, Dr. Gauger thought it commendable that so many teachers voluntarily apply for this additional training in order to better teach those students who are entrusted to them.

NON-PARTISANSHIP: Buck Passing or Responsibility?

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following story on non-partisanship in the Nebraska Legislature is taken from the School of Journalism's Depth Report No. 1, "Nebraska's Unicameral Legislature," which is appearing in the Summer Nebraskan because of the current discussion and proposals for partisanship in Nebraska's legislature.

"Non-partisanship is probably the strongest advantage of the Unicameral."

"Non-partisanship is a joke."

These two statements made by senators with long experience in Nebraska's Legislature represent the extremes in viewpoints about non-partisanship. That word—non-partisanship—has been wed to the Unicameral Legislature since the campaign in 1934.

Those who favor it and those who oppose it, both with equal vigor, admit that there is nothing peculiar about non-partisanship that makes it a necessary part of a two-house system, a part of a city council, or a part of any lawmaking body.

However, in Nebraska, non-partisanship was firmly attached to the Unicameral Legislature by the men who fought for its approval in 1934. With George Norris as the leading spokesman for this new aspect of Nebraska's new legislature, the proponents made non-partisanship a major provision in the plan to give the state a one-house system.

Their arguments and those opposing them have echoed throughout Nebraska during the nearly quarter-century the state has had its unique system of legislation.

Preference for System
However, the senators who

have made laws within the system generally seem to have found a preference for non-partisanship. Of the 68 senators participating in this survey, a large majority of them said non-partisanship was a strength rather than a weakness in the system. Their viewpoints varied from absolute backing, to lukewarm approval, to absolute opposition. Even so, the large majority of them had their answers to the critics of the system.

WHAT ARE THE CRITICISMS? What are the answers?

Here, from the survey of Nebraska senators, are the criticisms and the answers:

1. Non-partisanship leads to buck-passing.
(There is just as much buck-passing between the two houses of a bicameral system.)

2. Non-partisanship weakens the two-party system, which is a part of American political life.
(While non-partisanship does not strengthen the party system, the advantages gained in independent legislation outweigh this objection.)

3. Non-partisanship cannot separate an office-holder from his politics.
(There have been few instances in the history of the Unicameral Legislature where partisanship was obvious.)

4. Non-partisanship eliminates the normal development of leadership.
(The lack of party control allows leadership to develop on its own merit.)

5. Non-partisanship makes

it difficult for a governor elected on a partisan basis to coordinate his program with the Legislature.

(A large majority of the senators participating in the survey felt that this liaison was not a problem. However, Nebraska governors, who also were interviewed, felt that problems of liaison had arisen during their administrations.)

6. Non-partisanship leads to a lack of responsibility and subsequently a lack of legislative action.

(The Unicameral Legislature has produced enough legislation to govern Nebraska, and, in some instances, more good legislation than bicameral, partisan legislatures in other states.)

These, as the senators saw it, were the criticisms and the answers. While the ma-

ajority of those taking part in the survey backed non-partisanship, in several instances men strongly in favor of the unicameral system departed from their support to criticize this aspect of Nebraska's legislature. The history of the Unicameral Legislature and the replies to the survey by the senators bore out the notion that partisanship versus non-partisanship has long been a lively subject in Nebraska's political circles.

The theory of non-partisanship differs from partisanship in one major respect: In a non-partisan situation, a candidate is elected on his own personal integrity and convictions without a party label. In a partisan system, however, a candidate accepts the party stand and is backed by his party before, during, and

after his campaign and election.

THERE IS A "NATURALNESS" in the two-party system, according to two University of Nebraska political science professors. There are always at least two sides to every issue. The clash of opinions and competition between the two parties results in better decisions, they say.

More Than Two Sides

Yet, as indicated by the operation of the Unicameral Legislature, there may be more than two sides. Instead of a two-sided disagreement, there is sometimes a 43-sided argument which in most cases is resolved into one legislative bill.

R. D. Sloan, Jr., assistant professor of political science at the University, explains

that when an issue comes before the public in a two-party situation, the parties assume responsibility by making certain promises. Responsibility can thus be pinpointed and much buck-passing is eliminated.

The two-party system began with the disagreement between Alexander Hamilton and Thomas Jefferson on the question of a centralized government or a confederation of sovereign states, according to Dr. J. B. Shannon, chairman of the political science department. The Civil War widened the split resulting in the majority of the northern party joining the Republican party while the South became staunchly Democratic.

"When there are two parties, there is constant criticism to keep people on their toes," Dr. Shannon added.

Laymen, political scientists and other states view Nebraska quite critically because it is the only state employing both a one-house legislature and the non-partisan system. One answer for which they are all searching is: Has non-partisanship worked in this state?

Adam C. Breckenridge, Dean of Faculties at the University of Nebraska, contends that the non-partisan system does fulfill the need for obtaining good legislators and good legislation. In his book, *One House for Two*, he said the absence of party politics in the Unicameral Legislature has not caused a lack of responsibility, lack of leadership or lack of liaison between the governor and the legislators. Nor has non-partisanship

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Current Opinions

Party Heads, Senators Endorse Partisan Plan

EDITOR'S NOTE: As a sidebar for the story on non-partisanship in Nebraska's Legislature which was written in 1961, a Summer Nebraskan reporter talked with senators and citizens last week in order to hear current opinion on the subject of non-partisanship vs. partisanship.

By JIM RISSE

Renewed interest in a partisan Nebraska Legislature has been a much-discussed feature of the 1963 legislative session.

Both political parties and a handful of state senators have endorsed a change in the present system, which now sees Nebraska as the only state which elects its legislators on a non-partisan basis.

Among those who now would like to see the partisan system restored are former governor Val Peterson, now a University Regent; Adam Breckenridge, vice-chancellor of the University; Senators Clifton Foster, Michael P. Russilo, Fern Hubbard Orme, and Don McGinley; and the state and national officials of both political parties.

Sen. Foster was the principal introducer of L. B. 112, which would have submitted to the voters a constitutional amendment providing that legislators would be nominated and elected in a partisan manner.

The bill was killed in committee, and efforts to revive it on the floor were unsuccessful.

People or Party?

The opponents of the partisan system were subsequently able to pass a resolution, introduced by Sen. Arnold Ruhnke, which urges the citizens to consider whether they want legislators to be responsible to the people or to a political party.

The resolution was passed after the Nebraska Federation of Republican Women announced the launching of a drive to secure petitions which would place upon the ballot the question of the partisan system.

"One party has kept Nebraska bogged down," Sen. Foster said last week. "It has meant overwork, more bills introduced, and poorer quality legislation." He said that under a party system, the legislators would have more responsibility to some philosophy, and would have to meet important issues rather than avoid them.

Breckenridge told the Summer Nebraskan last week that he has changed his mind about the effectiveness of the non-partisan feature.

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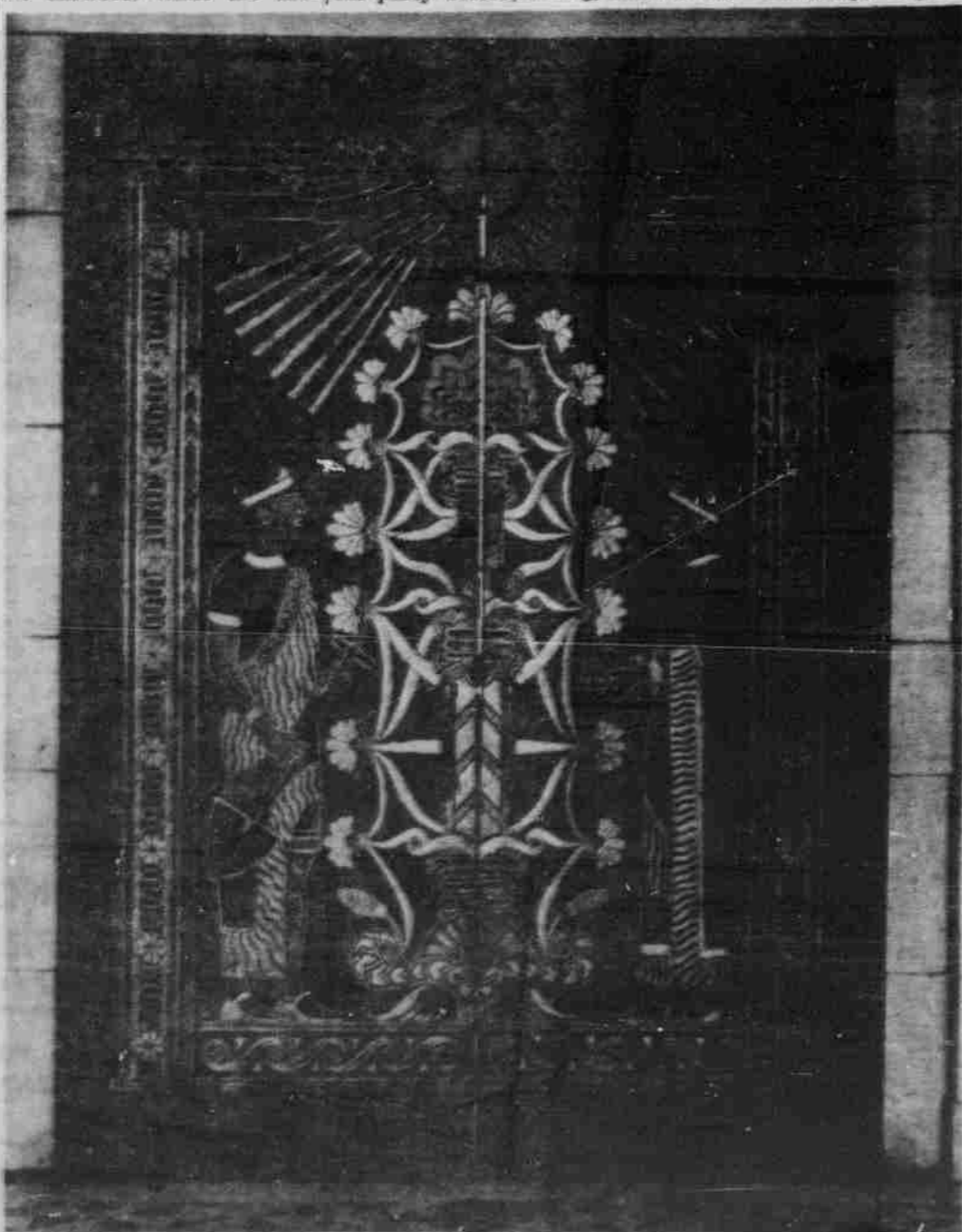
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WHAT TO DO—An interested, and perhaps, at one time, bored Lincoln resident suggests a list of "things to do" in the Lincoln area on

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THROUGH THESE DOORS—Inside the Indian doors is housed the nation's only unicameral legislature, one which is also operated on a non-partisan basis.