

a Legislators Represent No Parties

...at for the majori-
people of the state, and the
majority of legislators past
and present, the differences
between Democrats and Re-
publicans on most state ques-
tions are difficult to ascer-
tain. Indeed, the basis for
party distinctions may be dif-
ficult for most of them much
of the time."

THE PERSONAL ABILI-
TIES of members determine
the kind of leadership and
this leadership may change
from session to session on
separate questions, Brecken-
ridge continued. Instead of
being bound to one certain
party the legislators are
shaped by seniority, geo-
graphical distribution and
positions on various committees.

Breckenridge also contends
that many Democrats have
been elected from areas
which would have denied
them that privilege had the
party label been attached.

A majority of the senators
surveyed agreed with Dr.
Breckenridge on the apparent
success of non-partisanship.
However, several who ob-
served the earliest days of
Nebraska's one-house legisla-
ture, pointed out that non-
partisanship did not become
a legislative fact of life over-
night.

"In the beginning," one sen-
ator wrote, "the non-partisan-
ship feature was a weakness.
There was no responsibility
of any member of the Legis-
lature except to his own vot-
ers in his district. However,
the commonly accepted sys-
tem of responsibility and
leadership has been devel-
oped. As a result, party lines
have no effect on legislation
and the governor is able to
work in cooperation with the
Legislature."

Many of the senators
praised the independence
given them under the non-
partisanship system. One of
them commented:

More Incentive
"I think this is part of the
one house. It allows each sen-
ator to be just what the peo-
ple have elected him to be.
A representative of all the
people regardless of party.
This gives the senator more
incentive since it eliminates
going to the party bosses with
anything that he thinks will
be good for all the people
and told to lay off if it may
make a few votes for the
other party."

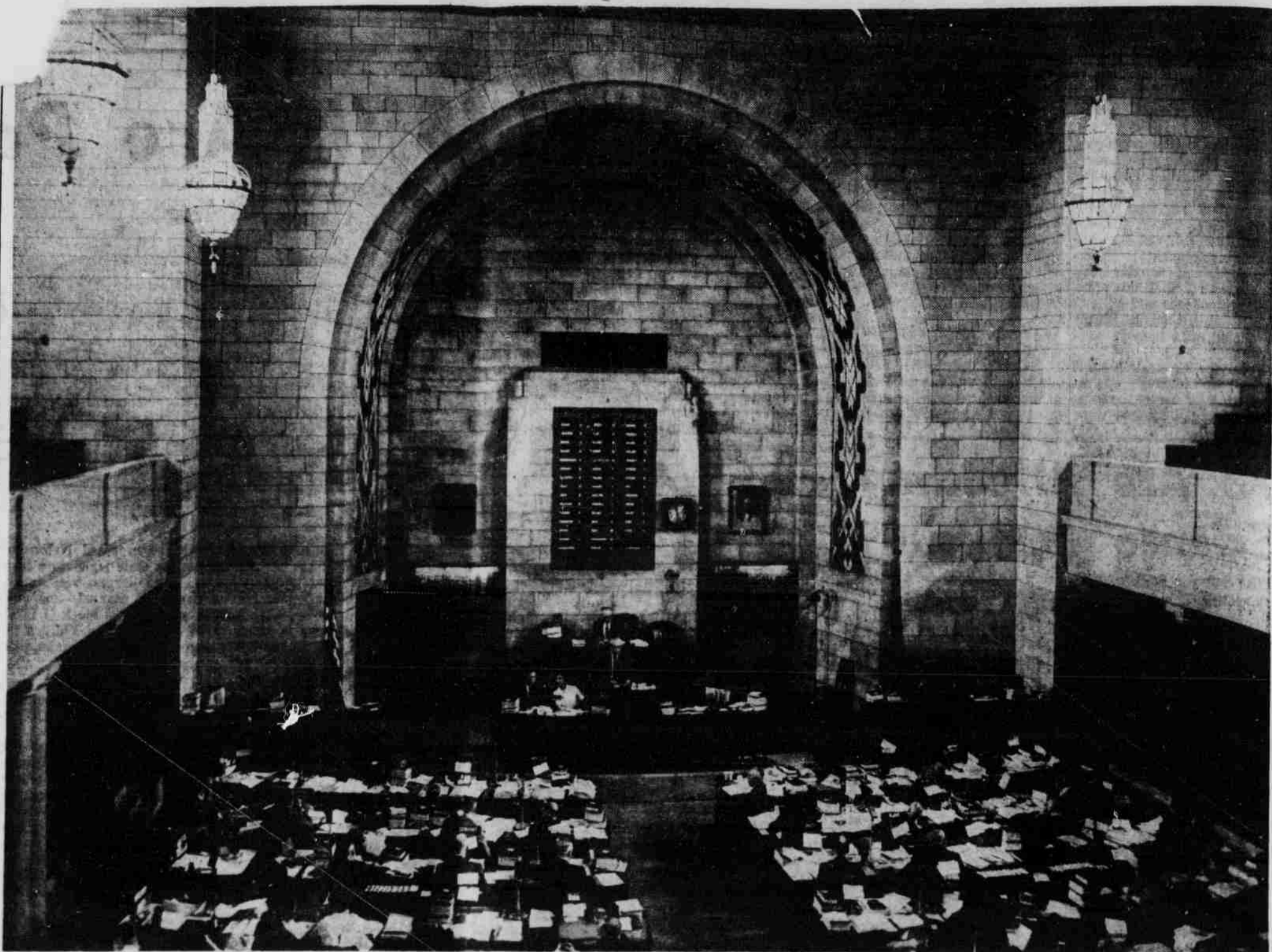
SOME EVIDENCE of par-
tisanship was found by an-
other, but he added from the
senators' viewpoint:

"I personally like the feel-
ing of direct responsibility to
the people."

**Experience in Washington,
D.C.,** was cited by a senator
who said:

"After considerable experi-
ence in Washington, D.C.,
and the resulting political
pressures, better legislation
is enacted by the unicameral
system with each senator al-
lowed to use his own good
judgment."

While this was the majority
view, an outspoken minority
did not view the workings of



LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER—Many of the senators who are seen on the legislature's floor have endorsed the return to a partisan legislature.

non-partisanship with so
much optimism.

System Is Joke

"The non-partisanship is a
joke," said one. "Every sen-
ator is either a Democrat or
a Republican before he is
elected to the non-partisan
legislature, and he remains
the same after he is elected."

"Non-partisanship did not
eliminate anything," a sen-
ator said. "Check the record
for the past 30 years, and you
will discover that the Repub-
licans always voted as a
body, and also the Demo-
crats."

Several of the senators
cited two examples over the
past few years in which they
felt partisanship had played
a part in legislative dealings.

One pointed out several times
was the period during the re-
count after the election of
Governor Ralph G. Brooks in
1958. The second incident cited
involved the appearance of
Governor Frank Morrison
in 1961 before the Legislature
to complain that partisanship
may have helped to kill a
bill on Nebraska Hall of
Fame nominations.

Interestingly, several of the
legislators who felt that non-
partisanship had not worked
in the unicameral system did
not feel that the system had
led to buck-passing.

THIS CHARGE of buck-
passing has been heard
periodically since 1937. These
critics said that the lack of
party responsibility has made

it possible for Nebraska leg-
islators to ignore vital legis-
lation. The survey, however,
indicated that most of the
senators themselves felt this
charge was borne out by the
facts.

One senator said, "You
can't keep partisanship out of
a government man. I say the
unicameral boys still follow
their politics."

No Buck Passing

However, this same senator
added, "There's nothing to the
buck-passing idea."

Another senator who said he
was "personally opposed to the
non-partisan feature of the
Legislature," added, "I do not
believe, however, that non-
partisanship has led to buck-
passing."

Conversely, another senator
who praised almost every as-
pect of the unicameral sys-
tem found non-partisanship to
be the great weakness in the
system and said that buck-
passing is a favorite sport in
the Unicameral Legislature.

In reply to the buck-passing
charge, one senator pointed
out that he found it "hard to
pass the buck with bills hav-
ing a public hearing."

Another senator attacked
the two-house system on the
very same charge. He said:

"A student of legislative
history knows that the bicam-
eral system enables buck-
passing between the two
houses. One passes a bill; the
other kills it; and vice versa
—without mentioning what a
conference committee can do,
and does very often."

Efforts to Control

This same senator com-

plained about efforts of the
political parties to control the
Legislature. He said:

"Many who are eligible to
vote do not vote, as sad com-
mentary upon our citizens;
only a few citizens actually
participate in politics; and
only a handful control a party,
and it is only the handful
who control the party who
also want to control the Leg-
islature. The citizenry is not
anxious to control the Leg-
islature or to have anyone else
control it, except their elected
representatives."

THE MAJOR POLITICAL
PARTIES have voiced criti-
cisms of the non-partisan sys-
tem. During the 1960 state
conventions, Democratic and
Republican parties both
spoke out against non-parti-
sanship and urged a return to
party politics in state govern-
ment.

Charles Hein, executive
state secretary of the Demo-
cratic party, concurred, say-
ing that he feels that although
people are not apathetic to-
ward state government as a
whole, party effectiveness is
destroyed by the non-partisan
system. Thus, Hein said, the
passage or defeat of certain
bills is often inconvenient and
impossible.

Speaking from a personal
standpoint and not for the
Democratic party, Hein con-
tinued, "It is impossible to
pinpoint responsibility on any
group. The Legislature is an
aimless group without any
leaders."

Charles Thone, former state
chairman of the Republican
party, said the same thing in
different words when he de-
scribed the non-partisan Leg-

islature as "43 leaders going
in different directions."

He said that senators can
also escape responsibility
easier in a non-partisan sys-
tem. Instead of taking a defi-
nite stand for or against an
issue, Thone added, the leg-
islator often passes the buck to
the next man. No one is will-
ing to take full responsibility,
Thone contended.

Responsibility Escape

He said that members of
the Legislature are not will-
ing to return to a partisan
system because they can es-
cape much responsibility. "A
guy with a full house," Thone
said, "doesn't ask for a new
deal."

Thone also was concerned
over what he considers an
apathetic attitude toward po-
litical parties in any phase.
He blamed part of this apathy
on the lack of party politics
in state government.

While a majority of the
senators surveyed favored
non-partisanship, a number of
them agreed in part with the
stand taken by the state po-
litical parties. One senator
who had served under both
systems said he preferred
partisanship. He added:

"In other words, candidates
for an office on a platform
would have the backing of
their party. At present, you
represent no party. On mat-
ters on legislation in regard
to parties, no one outside the
Legislature may talk authori-
tatively for a party, and our
country is run on the party
system."

A NEED FOR TWO PAR-
TIES was cited by several
senators.

"There ought to be an area
of opposition to all legisla-
tion," one said. "I believe
there ought to be a place to
put responsibility. Call 'em
Federalists and Whigs, there
should be some way to divide
the responsibility. Of course
it should be partisan."

"More responsibility toward
the vital issues would develop un-

der partisan election of mem-
bers," another senator said.
"Political parties would then
be able to work for pro-
grams of benefit to the state
in matters pertaining to taxes,
education, roads, resource de-
velopment, etc . . ."

Vague Platforms

However, another veteran
senator was dubious of the in-
fluence of party platforms.
"The political parties refuse
to be specific on a platform,"
he said. "The political parties'
promises are vague; but
(make) promises to all
groups."

"For example, they are for
good schools, for labor, for
fair taxes, for business, etc.,
but they don't nail their opin-
ions . . . to a specific pro-
gram."

And another senator did not
feel that non-partisanship
would necessarily work well
in all states. He wrote:

"The Unicameral would not
work in a state where political
bossism or strong political
machines were in control. It
is obvious that the whole thing
would be greased all the way
down the hall to the gov-
ernor's office. There would
not be enough of a check if
the machine had the Unicam-
eral and the governor."

CONCERN WAS EX-
PRESSED by several sen-
ators about what they felt
was the weakness of the two-
party system in Nebraska. "It
is doubtful," one said, "if the
two parties have fared as well
on the state level. The big
problem of Nebraska is an
out-moded tax structure. Both
political parties seem to shy
away from it, and leave it to
the non-political Legisla-
ture, which is unable to cope
with it. A one-house legisla-
ture, elected on a partisan
basis, might be able to get
something done."

Two points closely allied to
non-partisanship brought a
flood of comments from the
senators cooperating in the
survey. These two points—

survey. These two points—
leadership and liaison with
the governor.

Leadership Complaint

One senator, who backed
almost every other aspect of
the unicameral system,
voiced the complaint about
leadership:

"In this one respect I agree
with the opponents of the sys-
tem. In my opinion, this has
resulted in a loss of leader-
ship that the partisan feature
would probably provide. Ef-
fective leadership has not, in
fact, developed in the Uni-
cameral. It is not only diffi-
cult, but in my opinion, im-
possible to have effective
liaison between a partisan
governor and a non-partisan
Legislature. It is my experi-
ence that a non-partisan Leg-
islature makes it a particular
point not to be led by a par-
tisan governor."

Another senator emphasized
the leadership point, although
he called non-partisanship
"the strongest advantage of
the Unicameral." He made
the leadership point when he
added, "A senator acts as he
personally sees the problems
without answering to the party
leader. This makes it a
little difficult for some mem-
bers to go further in political
life (U.S. Senator, or Repre-
sentative, or governor.)"

These two points are taken
up in succeeding sections of
this report. First—LEADER-
SHIP.

**Three NU Offices
Planning to Move**

The University Extension
Division began moving yester-
day to its new quarters on
the fifth floor of Nebraska
Hall.

This is the first of a series
of departmental moves to the
remodeled east side of Ne-
braska Hall, according to Lou-
is J. Legg, University Man-
ager of Inventory.

Plans are for the Journal-
ism School to start moving
on July 15 to the third floor
of Nebraska Hall. As soon as
the Journalism move is com-
pleted, Audio Visual and Pho-
tographic Productions will
begin to move to the fourth
floor.

"Moving is not the whole
story," said Legg, "many
people are involved just get-
ting organized; much back-
ground planning is neces-
sary."


AT
STEVEN'S
10%
DISCOUNT
To All Students
and Faculty
ON ANY MERCHANDISE
IN THE STORE

- Watches
- Diamonds
- Watch Bands
- Transistors
- Record Players
- Cameras
- Portable TV
- Watch Repairing
- Tape Recorders
- Remington Typewriters

YOUR CREDIT IS GOOD
NO MONEY DOWN
TAKE ANY PURCHASE
WITH YOU

STEVEN
CREDIT JEWELERS

Open Mondays
and Thursdays
Until 9:00


moving?


rent a truck from
HERTZ!

Hertz rents clean modern
Chevrolet, GMC and
other sturdy trucks by
the hour, day, week or
longer. Trucks with hy-
draulic liftgates . . . pads
and dollies available.

For further details on how Hertz
trucks can fit your needs, call . . .

432-1037
1017 'Q' Street



CONGRESS INN
CANTONESE RESTAURANT
WE SPECIALIZE IN CHINESE
AND AMERICAN FOODS
1901 West "O" St. 477-8567

Lincoln's Newest
Dept. Store
Hesteds
14th & O
STREETS

ACTION Skirt
DETACHABLE SUSPENDERS — FASHION COLORS

ALL SKATING GOLFING SIZE
COTTON BOWLING DANCING 8 to 16
398 398
FASHIONS MAIN FLOOR

SPECIAL STUDENT AND FACULTY DISCOUNTS
• BETTER QUALITY DIAMONDS—WATCHES •
—CHARGE ACCOUNTS WELCOME—
EXPERT WATCH • JEWELRY REPAIRS
KAUFMAN JEWELERS
1332 "O" ST. OPEN MON.—THURS. NITES

CHRISTIANO'S
PIZZA PIES
WE CATER TO PARTIES

ANCHOVIES MUSHROOM SAUSAGE
PEPPERONI HAM PEPPER & ONIONS
HAMBURGER CHEESE & SAUSAGE

SPAGHETTI & MEATBALLS—\$1.00
Hours 4-12 Every Day — 889 N. 27th St.
FREE DELIVERY 477-4402
★ UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT ★

A COMPLETE
MEAL
in a
SANDWICH
OPEN 11:30 A.M.
TO 11 P.M.
RUNZA
DRIVE-IN
7 Blocks South of
Gooch's Mill