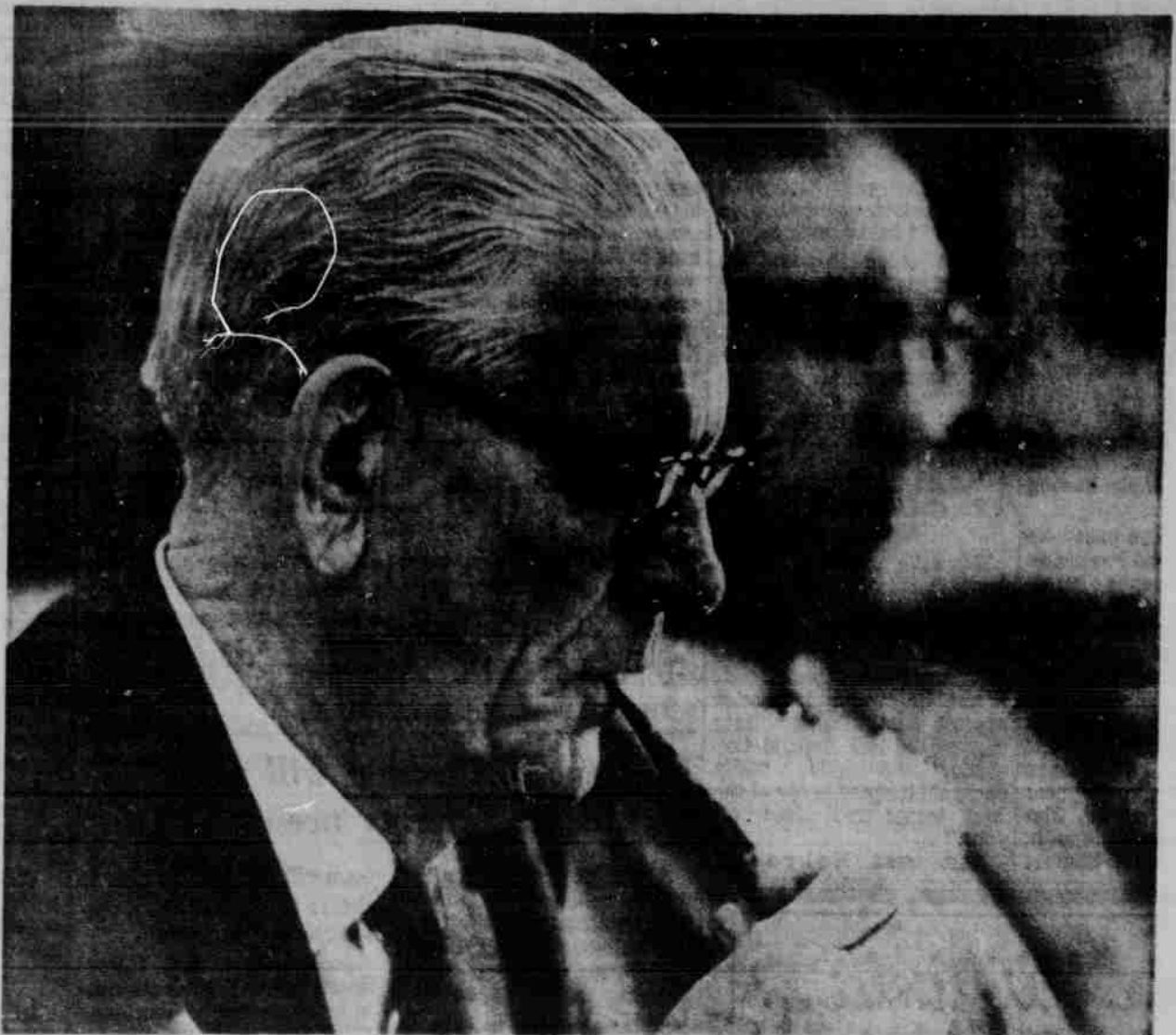




Clifford Hardin takes a leave of absence...

# The University Board of Regents: the men who make the decisions



John Gordon Elliott, 74, Scottsbluff banker and insurance man.

## Hardin's leave approved; Hobson acting chancellor

by Julie Morris  
Nebraskan Staff Writer

The University Regents Friday granted Chancellor Clifford Hardin a requested one-year leave of absence and stated that they are "not seeking a new Chancellor."

The Regents named Vice Chancellor Merk Hobson acting chancellor. Hardin, the new United States Secretary of Agriculture, was named professor of agricultural economics and granted the year's leave without pay beginning Jan. 20, 1969.

**THE LEAVE** may be extended indefinitely by the Regents at the end of the first year. Hardin said a determination that "will have to be made later."

The Regents also moved to change their bylaws to officially legalize appointment of an acting chancellor for the University. They set Saturday, Jan. 11 as the date for a public hearing on that proposed change.

The Regents' action came over the objections of some faculty and students and words of disapproval from Governor Norbert Tiemann.

At least one group of faculty members met last week to consider expressing public concern about the possible ill effects of a "chancellor-in-absentia."

**TIEMANN SAID** Thursday that the University should hire a permanent successor for Hardin. "A four-year period is too long for an acting chancellor," Tiemann said.

Hardin said of public criticism of his request for a leave. "I have to leave this to the judgement of the Regents."

Regents President Dr. B. N. Greenberg said, "I haven't heard a dissenting remark about the matter."

In a prepared statement read by Greenberg, the Regents said, "We are pleased to make clear that the University is not seeking a new chancellor. We are very glad Chancellor Hardin intends to continue with the University and we are following customary procedure and granting him a one-year leave of absence without pay precisely the same way we grant leaves to other members of the faculty."

**DISCUSSING THE** cabinet post, Hardin said he was first contacted about the job Dec. 1. He said President-elect Richard Nixon "is aware of" Hardin's request for a one-year leave of absence.

The Regents also reshuffled several other top University administrators to complete

the new administrative alignment. Those changes: —G. Robert Ross named corporation secretary to the Board of Regents, title changed to vice chancellor for student programs and dean of student affairs.

—Gene Budig, administrative assistant to the chancellor, given additional appointment as assistant corporation secretary.

—Cecil Wittson, dean of the College of Medicine, named president of the University Medical Center.

—Robert Kugel, chairman of the University department of pediatrics, named dean of the College of Medicine.

**HOBSON RETAINS** his title

of vice chancellor for academic affairs. He is past dean of the College of Engineering and Architecture and past vice chancellor of the Graduate College.

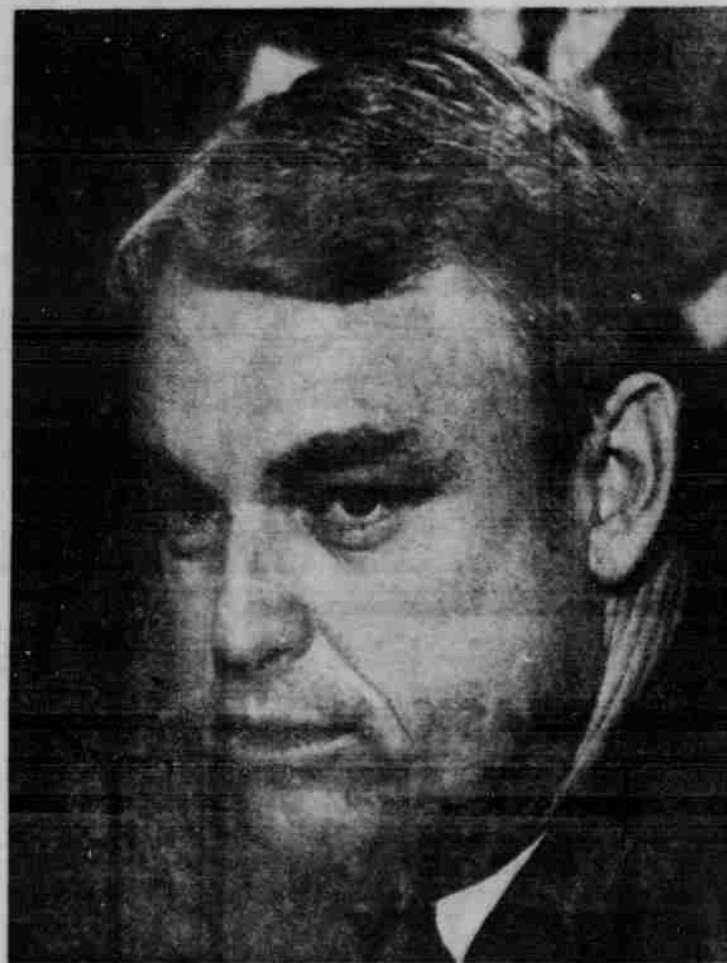
The university now has two vacant administrative positions, executive Dean of the Graduate College and Dean of Faculties.

Hardin is the third Nebraskan to be named a member of a President's cabinet.

Friday's Regents meeting included several laudatory speeches for the Chancellor by members of the board. A red-and-white "Welcome Home Cliff" banner hung over the conference table.



... Merk Hobson steps in.



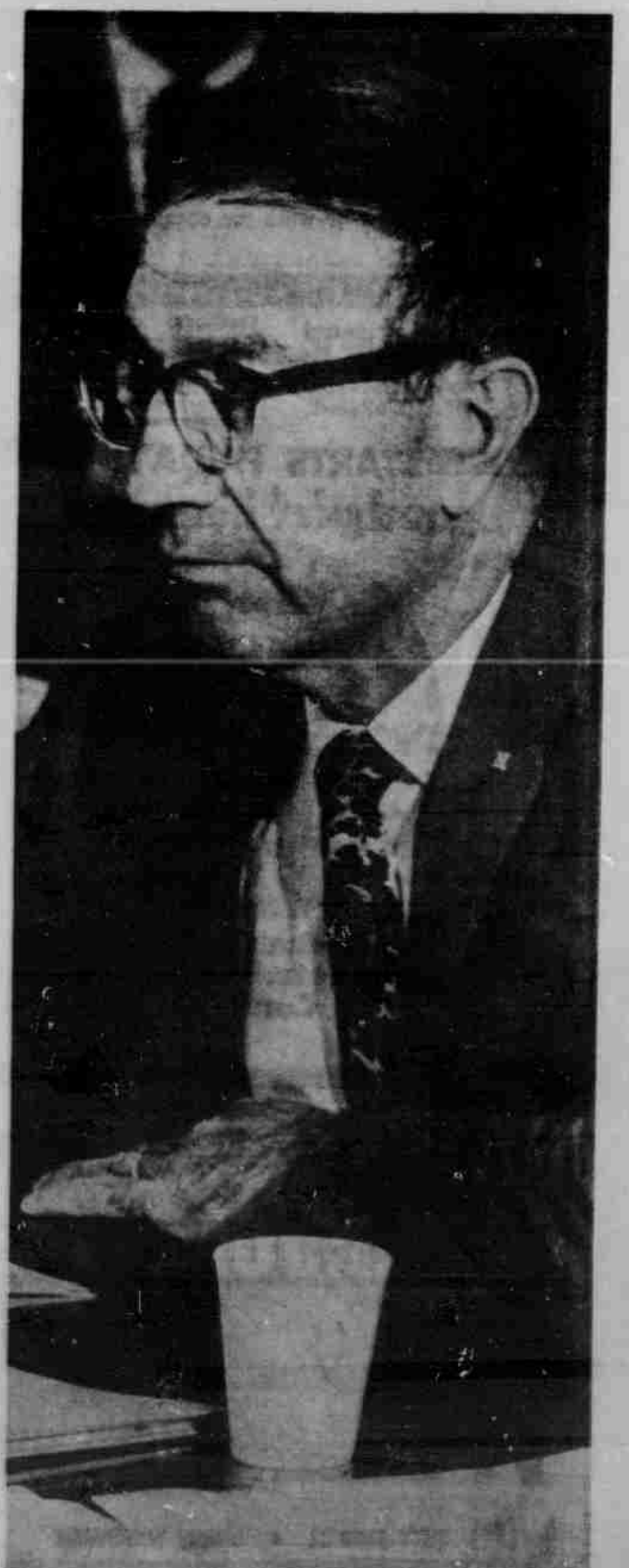
Richard L. Herman, 48, Omaha trucking executive.



Robert L. Raun, 40, Norman farmer and livestock feeder.



Regents President Dr. Ben Norton Greenberg, 65, York physician.



Edward Schwartzkopf, 49, Lincoln educator.

Photography by Dan Ladely

As a general rule, every executive function should be the appointed duty of some given individual. It should be apparent to all the world, who did everything, and through whose default anything was left undone. Boards, therefore are not a fit instrument for executive business...

—John Stuart Mill