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Bill to safeguard black history remains in Education Committee

by Susie Jenkins
Nebraskan Staff Writer

A legislative bill to insure inclusion of black contributions to American history in the Nebraska school curricula was held for consideration by the Education Committee Wednesday after a lengthy hearing.

LB 178, sponsored by Omaha Near North Side Sen. Edward Danner, would also adjust an already existing statute to prevent use of "any classroom reading material, literature, classics, fiction or novels which use any racial epithet considered degrading or derogatory to any ethnic student."

In presenting the bill to the committee, Danner also introduced an amendment to strike a sentence he had originally included in his bill. The sentence read: "The following publications are expressly prohibited: Emperor Jones, Little Black Joe, Lit-

tle Black Sambo, and Huckleberry Finn."

THE BILL drew a full house in the hearing room, where for more than two hours the committee heard testimony on the bill. Testimony was also heard on LB 177, which would authorize construction of a vocational technical school in the Omaha area, also sponsored by Danner.

"American history texts have not reflected the contributions of minorities to American society," Danner told the committee. "Negro youth has been denied a perspective on their heritage in the classroom, and have learned it through the media instead."

"We also ask for changes in the history texts so that whites will have the benefit of this knowledge," he said.

THE UNCOMFORTABLE seven

committeemen listened to a well organized parade of speakers testifying in favor of the bill, most of whom were blacks from Omaha.

Several students from Omaha Central, Omaha Technical and the University of Nebraska at Omaha appeared, representing groups such as "Black United Students of Soul" and the Tech Legal Study Club.

Representatives from the Citizens Coordinating Committee for Civil Liberties (4C-L) also spoke, arguing that the bill would protect minorities in Nebraska from the "inherent" tendencies in the classroom "to keep blacks inferior."

DR. MAX POOLE, University elementary education professor, spoke against the bill. Poole commented parenthetically that although he was "not personally against the intent and spirit of the measure," the bill was

unnecessary because of new experimental social studies curricula solving these problems in the classroom.

"We are starting to recognize that the Negro has made a contribution to Nebraska," Poole said. "We shouldn't set a precedent by teaching about only black people."

Also speaking against the bill were two teachers from the all-white Omaha School District 66. Dan O'Connor and Joe Higgins, teachers at Omaha Westside, told the committee they disagreed with "legislative action in the area of curriculum," which O'Connor said should be left up to the teachers.

Higgins said that the section calling for disapproval of "derogatory" material for classroom use "implies censorship by the will of the students."

Humlicek says that NFU struggling

Nebraska Free University is struggling from two basic problems: money and leadership, according to NFU Chairman Jim Humlicek.

He said Wednesday that a second semester monetary deficiency is of primary importance in NFU's problems. But the financial problems are also compounded by insufficient activity and interest of NFU committee members.

Nebraska Free University is struggling primarily because most of its allotted \$450 budget was spent last semester, according to Humlicek.

"I was told by the ASUN executives to spend pretty much what I needed to do the job last fall," Humlicek said Wednesday. "So I started spending."

Last semester's NFU was one of the most successful ever, with more than 50 courses and 1,000 registrants. However, this semester, the Free University is offering only six courses.

"WE PROBABLY spent in the neighborhood of \$350 last semester," he reported. Humlicek could not give an exact amount because he kept no records.

Most of the financial matters were

handled through the ASUN office, he pointed out. He said that the ASUN secretary kept most of the NFU financial records.

Money matters in general are handled pretty loosely in the ASUN office, Humlicek continued. The official budget was not adopted until weeks after school began. In that budget, the NFU was allotted \$450.

No money was available, and to compound problems, Humlicek's staff dissipated. Almost as great a problem is this lack of qualified help. Only a small group of students worked on the NFU coordinating committee last semester. This semester Humlicek is working alone.

"I told the ASUN executives that I would no longer be able to serve as NFU chairman," Humlicek said. They agreed to search for a new chairman.

Humlicek searched, too, but no interested person could be found. After several weeks of the second semester, with no chairman, it looked as if the NFU would cease operation.

He then agreed to stay on and do some work with this semester's free school.

"I had told the executives that I

would work with the committee, not as an administrator, but in planning more for next fall's operation," Humlicek said.

THIS SEMESTER, all prospective NFU committee members had higher, more important priorities, he said. As does Humlicek, who is now a graduate student.

It was understood however, that not all of that money would go to the Free University, Humlicek pointed out. Other ASUN activities could have drawn from that fund if necessary.

HUMLICEK SPENT most of the allotted sum, primarily because he felt other money would be forthcoming from other sources for the NFU's second semester of operation. That money was not forthcoming.

"I talked to Ron G. Eaglin, coordinator of student activities," Humlicek said. Eaglin has a fund of several thousand dollars which he uses to bail student groups and projects out of financial straits, he explained.

"I asked for \$300," Humlicek said. "But Eaglin refused, saying he did not want to set a precedent by granting such a large sum to the Free University."

By this time it was late November, too late to solicit funds from independent foundations, Humlicek said. The NFU should really have a separate allocation from student fees,

he said. It is impossible to obtain such an allocation.

"OF COURSE, last semester, it looked like I wouldn't be around school much longer," Humlicek said. "And at the time it seemed reasonable that we would find more money, if needed, somewhere."

"I just couldn't see running the NFU like it was last semester for the sake of appearance," Humlicek stressed. "With a little money and four or five kids, we could have put together about 25 courses and then everyone would say 'look, there is a free university after all.'"

This is not the way to operate; this is just half hearted, he stressed. Humlicek envisions a continuing committee which would pay staff members to be responsible for the NFU. Committee members received no salary last semester.

The basic problem is that ASUN lacks sufficient money to do anything well, he said. Consequently, special projects such as the NFU also lack adequate funding. Humlicek would like to see at least a thousand dollars appropriated for the NFU. The ASUN's total budget this year is less than \$11,000.

"Ideally, the NFU should not depend on any University aid," Humlicek said. "It should not depend on student government finding a few jocks to run it."

Dr. Magrath proposed for new Dean of Faculties

Dr. C. Peter Magrath will be recommended to the Board of Regents as the new dean of faculties for the Lincoln campuses of the University. The Board is expected to take formal action on the recommendation at its next meeting, March 10 in Omaha.

President Joseph Soshnik said he will recommend the appointment to be effective April 1, 1969. Acting Chancellor Merk Hobson had served as Dean of Faculties since July, 1966.

Magrath, 35, has been dean of the college of arts and sciences since June, 1968. He came to Nebraska from Brown University, where he served on the political science faculty from 1961 to 1968. He was associate dean of the graduate school at Brown in 1965-66.

C. Peter Magrath



Magrath is nationally known in the field of political science. He has specialized in the area of American constitutional law and the operation of the U.S. Supreme Court. He is currently finishing the writing of a major textbook in American government and is the author of a number of monographs, articles and books.

Hearing set for dorm financing bill

by Sue Petley
Nebraskan Staff Writer

A bill which would authorize University and state colleges to use bonds to finance dormitories and similar facilities remained in the Education Committee following a public hearing Tuesday.

If the committee takes positive action on the measure and it secures legislative approval, the bill will still

have to appear on the ballot in 1970 as a constitutional amendment. Action by the committee is expected in a week.

According to Sen. Terry Carpenter, introducer of the measure, the bill would legalize those bonds already issued and broaden legislative powers in issuing bonds. University officials in attendance at the hearing included Joseph Soshnik, president, and Merk Hobson, acting chancellor.

WARREN JOHNSON, attorney representing the University, lobbied in favor of LB 810. He pointed out a 30 year precedent for issuance of such bonds, adding that the legality had to be definitely established to reassure bond buyers.

The principal legal doubt, as Johnson saw it, was the question of whether one facility, as soon as it was paid off by bonds, could be used to support the building of another facility.

Johnson explained that dorms are actually revenue-producing facilities which pay for themselves. If there are slack years in which dorm occupancy goes down, the drop can be absorbed by funds included in bond issues for maintenance and surplus.

THE BONDS are actually saving money for Nebraska taxpayers, according to Johnson, and are necessary to continue providing high quality facilities for students at rates among the lowest in the nation. He added that the bonds were an excellent way of strengthening the credit of state institutions.

Johnson introduced several amendments to the bill, expanding wording to include patient care facilities, labs, student unions and parking facilities, in addition to dormitories.

Soshnik addressed the committee observing that with approximately one third of the University students residing in dorms, the facilities operate at 95 to 100 per cent capacity. He added that since only freshmen are required to reside in dorms, the remainder is comprised of voluntary residence by upperclassmen.

No one appeared in opposition to the bill.



Revamped history courses in Nebraska schools to include minority group contributions is the substance of LB 178, introduced by Sen. Edward Danner of Omaha. The bill was discussed before a full audience Wednesday.

Schedule change for finals proposed

ASUN Wednesday passed a resolution recommending that the University eliminate the two week period after Christmas vacation which is part of the first semester and hold finals prior to the Christmas break.

Labeling the post-vacation period "lame-duck" and "bobtail," Sen. Tom Lonquist introduced the measure and suggested first semester classes begin earlier in the fall.

"Last spring there was talk about changing to the quarter system but it was dropped," he said. "Still nothing was done about some of the deficiencies in the existing system."

Lonquist added that University President Joseph Soshnik had reacted favorably when approached with the proposal but refused to make any official statement.

The calendar for the 1969-70 academic year has already been approved by the faculty ad hoc committee on calendar scheduling. Thus the recommendation could not be considered for implementation until the 1970-71 year.

Senate also approved the seven senators recommended by the ASUN executive committee as delegates to the constitutional convention. They are Bob Zucker, Bruce Cochrane, Bill Chaloupka, Sue Thompson Diane Theisen, Tom Wiese, and Julian Wirth.

First Vice-president Tom Morgan declared the senate seats of Jack Adkins and Mark Moseman vacant and announced that applications will be accepted to fill their seats. The two senators were expelled for failing to comply with a constitutional clause which states that a senator shall lose his seat upon three unexcused absences from senate meetings.

Moseman and Adkins both had

missed in excess of seven times. Moseman was a senator from the College of Engineering and Architecture while Adkins held his seat in the College of Agriculture.

Pot bill to be reconsidered

by Bill Smitherman
Nebraskan Staff Writer

Legislative Bill 8, which provides for the 30-day suspension of Nebraska college students caught with marijuana, is scheduled for reconsideration by the Legislature Thursday. The bill was vetoed by Governor Tiemann earlier this week.

LB 8 also provides for the investigation and possible removal from office of administrators who fail to carry out its provisions.

Flavel Wright, attorney for the University, questioned Wednesday the constitutionality of the bill in its current form.

WRIGHT SAID that he doubted the constitutionality of any law which deals more harshly with one group than another.

It is a matter of question whether the bill could be amended to make it constitutional, he continued. However, it would at least be possible to make the bill refer to existing criminal legislation on the subject, he said.

As the bill now stands, he continued it increases the penalty of the existing criminal statute without referring explicitly to it.

Mudder Nature's . . .



. . . Dirty Work