

# Soshnik: student member on Regents infeasible

Who is going to be the student that is going to represent the total student body?" asked Dr. Joseph Soshnik, president of the University Lincoln campus, in response to a query of whether he would support a non-voting student on the Board of Regents.

Soshnik, speaking at a meeting of the East Campus Circle K Club, termed the proposal complex and overdrawn.

"The idea of student participation is acceptable," Soshnik said, "but the suggestion that a student should be a member of the Board of Regents and the connotation that it changes the opportunity of students to relate to and communicate with the Board is unrealistic."

"We have encouraged over a long period of time," he added, "student attendance of Regents meetings with the thought of giving them the flavor of what is going on."

"IN DISCUSSING the students role in determining University policy, Soshnik allowed that one of the real questions is whether students will approve of decisions arrived at by someone their own age who they may feel does not represent them any better than someone who isn't their age."

Student participation should be at

the grass roots, Soshnik said, where "you work with faculty members and the people who are responsible for departmental affairs."

"At Nebraska there has been a long tradition in which students were involved in student affairs. The traditions of this University are of close relationships between faculty and students," he claimed.

But as in any university as complex as ours, he added, there is a certain lack of uniformity among departments and colleges in the degree of student involvement and participation.

There are many underlying elements that must be taken into account when considering questions of authority and responsibility in decision making, he said.

"There is an important distinction that should be made between decision making and the sharing in the process," Soshnik said.

"There are certain legal obligations that can't be set aside by people who are elected or appointed to various positions in the educational institutions," he said. "Those who think that changes in the academic community can be sudden or revolutionary are wrong."

"We must have in any open academic community freedom of ex-

pression. This is why many of the organizations which can be made to work in other enterprises such as business don't apply in the University," Soshnik continued.

"BECAUSE THE FREEDOM of expression is made tantamount by some for a special license to say or do anything at anytime they please, we begin to approach the crux of the problem of the academic community," he said.

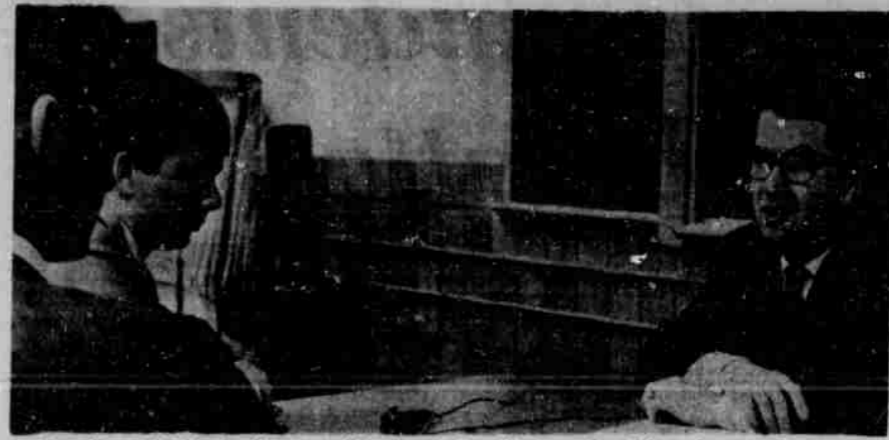
Phrases such as "Student Power," Soshnik said, are too often thought to be synonymous with student domination or tyranny.

"When we are talking about power in the legitimate sense, we are talking about participation in an atmosphere where it is understood that not everybody has exactly the same views at the same time," he said.

Soshnik said the students at the University can express their interests and bring about changes, noticeably in the areas of curriculum and housing.

In curriculum, he said, there have been numerous additions of courses and changes in their structure.

The development of the housing board is especially indicative of the amount of student involvement and interest in this area, he said.



Dr. Joseph Soshnik, president of the University Lincoln campus, is the first administrator to express an opinion on the feasibility of a Student Regent in his talk with Circle K members.

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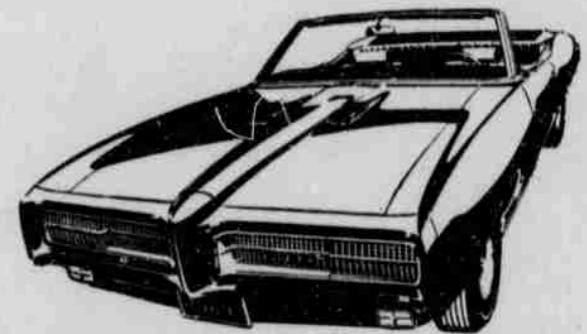
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## New pledge contract

Continued from page 1

IFC advisor to accompany them on any inspection, Sorenson continued.

According to Miller, the eight houses feel an advisor is necessary so that not just the few individuals of the executive committee can decide when there is a violation and revoke the contract.

The new contract also stipulates that any violation of the contract requires a two-thirds majority of the IFC to cause revocation.

"THE SERIOUSNESS of revocation of the contract means that a house would virtually be denied a pledge class if it lost the contract," Polikov said. "That is why it should take two-thirds of IFC to revoke a contract."

He added that on a first violation even the executive committee probably wouldn't agree to revoking a contract.

Polikov also emphasized the addition to the contract of the sentence which will prohibit all forms of personal servitude.

"This is the most constructive point in the new contract," he said. "Why wasn't this point in the original contract IFC passed?"

MUCH OF the criticism of the standing contract from these houses is that it is not serving to improve pledge training methods.

"This contract has been signed by many houses not to improve their pledge training but to hurt houses who cannot comply with it on one or two minor points," according to Russell.

"With the Sigma Chi it is a great deal of principle because we don't want to sign the contract unless we can live up to it," he added. "The existing contract is being used as a

crowbar, not a guideline for pledge education."

Polikov feels that the new contract better represents the attitudes of the Greek system because it has been drawn up by members of several houses instead of a few individuals on the executive committee.

"THE CONTENT of this contract is merely a reaffirmation of the policy each house agrees to follow by becoming a member of IFC," Terry Gramsick, treasurer of IFC and a member of Theta Xi, said.

There are some practices outlawed in the contract which will continue even if all the houses sign the contract, Gramsick added.

"The houses who won't sign the contract are concerned about major points such as line-ups," he said. "These are major points which have to go."

ACCORDING TO Polikov, the dispute over the contract is a result of IFC accepting the contract now in effect before it was thoroughly worked out and discussed.

"The contract now standing will be more destructive than constructive if there is a sharp division between houses," Miller added.

If the IFC does not implement the new contract that will be proposed by the eight houses, those houses will be forced either to sign or not sign the existing contract. They will not band together and display the contract they have drawn up in rush week.

"It would either be the new contract or none at all for Sigma Chi," Russell said. "We don't want to break away from IFC, but we do feel that this contract fulfills the same purposes of the first contract while at the same time uniting the Greek system behind a progressive form of pledge training."

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