

# Daily Nebraskan

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1970

LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

VOL. 93, NO. 48

Visitation 'not in best interest'

## Chancellor urges innovation

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University Chancellor Durward B. Varner took office Monday pledging to "encourage and occasionally cajole" the faculty to be innovative.

The 52-year-old, 6-2 Varner said he will not initiate innovations on the three state campuses, but rather urge faculty to formulate and propose such programs.

The former chancellor of Oakland University in suburban Detroit, Mich., sees each campus with its own president as "semi-autonomous," his role as the Regents' chief executive.

"I may try to persuade them (the Regents) to modify their policies, but they make the final decisions," Varner said.

On student involvement in University decision-making, Varner said students can be given a larger role than they have currently, but added that this is his personal viewpoint, and it may not be University policy.

He discussed some drawbacks to student participation. Although the chancellor said he has "great confidence" in students, he said learning is a full-time job for most students. They lack time and experience; and as "transients" they don't get the "full sweep," according to Varner. But these handicaps can also be strengths because four-year students possess a sense of immediacy, he continued.

Varner emphasized that the power of the University should rest with the Regents as the elected representatives of the people and ultimately with the state's voters.

On Regents' control over the social life of students, Varner said, "The Regents can't abdicate their responsibility to parents for the social conduct of students. They can choose not to exercise their responsibility, but they can't deny it."

Varner described his position as "pretty reserved" concerning coed visitation.

He opposes 24-hour visitation and coeds occupying alternate rooms on a dorm floor because they "are not in the best interests of the students." However, room for discussion exists on less extreme proposals, the chancellor added.

Varner said he is sympathetic to students who

wanted public discussion on nominations and selection for chancellor, but called the secrecy a practical matter.

If the public had known that he was being considered for the post, Varner said his position at Oakland would have been weakened and he would have been forced to decline the offer. Students were included on the committee making recommendations, Varner added.

The new chancellor said he was surprised to learn of his selection and met with the Regents in Chicago at the insistence of Dick Adkins, board president. His intention to decline the position was changed by "the enthusiasm,

knowledge and unanimity" of the Regents.

Since the University of Nebraska is the state's only publicly supported university, Varner said the post offered him the opportunity to help alleviate social problems in the state.

The University of Nebraska College of Medicine is "very aggressive" in that area, Varner commented. UNO's urban setting furthers these challenges, he continued.

Politically, the chancellor considers himself an independent. "My number one party is the University of Nebraska," Varner commented. He doesn't think politics will affect his job.

As the former chairman of the Michigan State Council for the Arts, Varner says he hopes for expansion of programs for the arts at Nebraska.

Although he was impressed with Sheldon Art Gallery and is enthusiastic about the arts, the chancellor admits that having been reared in Cottonwood, Tex., with a population of 70, his knowledge of art is not vast.

Varner did his undergraduate work at Texas A&M and received his masters in political science and economics at the University of Chicago in 1949. He was a faculty member at Michigan State University at East Lansing from 1949 to 1959.

From 1955-59 Varner was vice president of MSU in charge of off-campus education programs and director of continuing education. From 1959 to 1969 he served as chancellor of Oakland University, created in 1959. During his chancellorship, Oakland grew from a student body of 570 to one of 5,800.

Oakland has three experimental colleges and programs such as seminars for freshmen, independent study, upgraded courses, off-campus study projects, study abroad, required study of non-western cultures, and a three semester calendar.

Chancellor Varner and his wife Paula have three children.



Photos by Dan Ladely

## Spiro sparks protest march

Plans are completed for a silent demonstration of protest to be held at 6 p.m. Monday when Vice President Spiro Agnew appears in Lincoln at a testimonial dinner for Gov. Norbert Tiemann.

"We're trying to show the nation that there are Nebraskans opposed to the genocide in Vietnam," said Steve Tiwald, an organizer of the peace demonstration.

Mike Shonsey, coordinator of the Moratorium Committee, said the possibility that Agnew will make the first public comment on his recent Asian tour will attract national newsmen.

He qualified himself by saying that plans for the demonstration, however, were

not completed until this Monday's planning session attended by about 75 students.

A position paper outlining the purpose of the Moratorium will be distributed at the demonstration, Shonsey said. The position paper, approved by those attending the planning session, "explains that the Moratorium is an education process," Dan Schafer said. "It is a continual process designed to offer people an option to alter government policy."

Tiwald said he felt the enthusiasm being mustered by demonstration organizers is a "different kind of enthusiasm than that of the October march."

"We've learned that the war won't end right after a demonstration such as this one — we've learned we must continue to relay our message."

Prior to the demonstration, a rally featuring guest speaker John M. Swomley, Ph.D. will

be held at 3:30 p.m. in the Union Ballroom, according to Shonsey.

Swomley is a member of the American Civil Liberties Union, president of the ACLU in Western Missouri, and is a professor of Christian ethics at Saint Paul School of Theology in Kansas City, Mo.

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