



Soldiers in war—Veterans for Peace

by GARY SEACREST, Nebraskan Staff Writer

A former Army sergeant who went Absent Without Official Leave (AWOL) last October is now organizing a Veterans for Peace organization at the University.

Mike Wilson, 20, enrolled in the University after receiving an honorable discharge on Dec. 18, 1969. He had served only 23 months of a 36 month enlistment.

WILSON is organizing the Veterans for Peace because he feels "that there are too many people who do not know what is going on in the military and in the Vietnam War and I and others want to let them know the truth."

"The main goal of the organization will be to let people know we fought in the Vietnam War and we don't support it," added Wilson.

The veteran enlisted in the Army in early 1968. After completing a one year tour of duty in Vietnam and returning to an Army desk job in Nebraska, he decided to go AWOL. In Vietnam he had received an Army commendation medal for his services.

THE FORMER sergeant said that at first he felt it was his obligation to serve in the Army but "after several months of active duty my eyes were opened to the immorality and the unfair practices of the military."

"In the Army I could see around me a complete negation of what I had been taught.



There is no freedom of choice. If a man becomes dissatisfied with his job and asks to be transferred, he is threatened with being sent to an infantry unit."

In San Francisco he met with a psychiatrist who determined that he was not without motive for going AWOL and the Army should consider that he was unsuited for military service.

WILSON TURNED himself in to Army officials the day before he would have been officially declared a deserter. After being questioned of his beliefs and motives he was sent to Fort Riley, Kansas for further questioning. There he showed Army officials the letter from the psychiatrist and a Daily Nebraskan article concerning his going AWOL.

Describing his final questioning at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, Wilson said, "I really got hassled a lot over such things as my hair and the condition of my uniform. It was their last chance to get at me and they tried everything to embarrass me. My punishment for going AWOL was being ousted from sergeant to corporal."

About 20 veterans are now

interested in joining the Veterans for Peace which is open to all veterans on campus. The organization is sponsoring the Lincoln appearance, on Feb. 18, of Army Gen. Hugh B. Hester, who is opposed to the Vietnam War.

THE VETERANS for Peace will be working closely with the Moratorium Committee according to Wilson. He also hopes to set up a program which would permit members of the organization to speak in high schools. The Veterans for Peace are having an organization meeting next Wednesday evening.

Search committee answers charges

by BILL SMITHERMEN, Nebraskan Staff Writer

The chancellor search committee, in a letter released to the Daily Nebraskan, has replied to several charges concerning the recent selection of Durward B. Varner as chancellor.

According to committee member Victor Blackwell, the letter was necessary to answer charges made by State Senator Terry Carpenter of Scottsbluff and "set the record straight on how the selection was made."

Student committee member John Moseman said the letter was written by several members of the committee and approved by all the others.

It concerns the alleged involvement of former Chancellor Clifford Hardin in the selection, the representation of students and the process by which the names were presented to the Regents.

There was speculation that former Chancellor Hardin was active in Varner's selection because of his own Michigan background, Moseman said. It was also noted that selection committee member Everett E. Peterson was a co-worker with Hardin in Michigan.

The letter claims that Hardin had no influence on Varner's selection. His name was placed on the list of potential candidates by a University student July 8, it adds.

"On September 5 Varner's name was placed on the list of top candidates after comments

from one member of the committee from the Lincoln campus and one from the UNO campus; neither of these men has been particularly close to Hardin. Subsequently, all, or almost all, committee members collected information about and recommendations of Varner."

Three students on the committee took an active part in the selection process, the letter emphasizes.

It explains that some men on the original committee list who were opposed by student members were dropped from consideration. By the same token, suggestions of student members were given the same consideration as those from other sources.

The committee worked in secrecy for several reasons according to the letter. "The process of selecting a chancellor should not be open to undue political pressure, and it cannot be vulnerable to emotion rather than reason."

"The Committee takes pride in the fact that no names leaked out during the months of our investigation, and that no potential chancellors were subjected to the embarrassment of public debate consisting of hear-say and emotion."

It continues, "Much of the material discussed by a selection committee has to do with private assessments of a candidate's personal integrity and cannot be given to public circulation without hurting those whom the committee discusses or hurting the institution's potential for recruiting a first-class person."

Cecil L. Wittson, president of NU Medical Center at Omaha was pleased with the degree of silence maintained by the committee. He attributed a news story carried by an Omaha radio station four days before the announcement of Varner's acceptance to sources in Detroit, Michigan, where

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Pollution solution may blacken toes

by MARY PAT FOWLER, Nebraskan Staff Writer

Solving Nebraska's important pollution problems could involve stepping on the toes of important people, according to two state officials.

In an informal seminar on environmental pollution at the Centennial Education Program, Robert Kuzelka, director of the newly created State Office of Planning and Programming, discussed the serious pollution problems that face Nebraska.

"The primary sources of pollution in Nebraska are pesticides, feedlot run-off, and the dumping of packing house wastes into rivers and streams," he said.

"As you can see," Kuzelka said, "the farmers are not the nasty culprits that they are often

made out to be. Pollution is everyone's fault, and therefore, everyone's problem."

Kuzelka went on to say that to overcome the dangers to the Nebraska environment, Nebraskans will have to resolve urban and rural polarization which is the source of suspicion and mistrust.

Another official of the state agency, Natural Resources Coordinator, Jim Barr, added that pollution is forcing a choice between modern living with all its conveniences and clean, healthful streams and air.

The State Office of Planning and Programming was created during the last session of the legislature. In the opinion of the two officials as expressed at the seminar, the office has "the obligation to inform Nebraskans of the problems of pollution and of the things that are being done to fight pollution."

Kuzelka and Barr mentioned the fact that the practice of matching state and federal funds for anti-pollution projects often causes long delays. The stipulations attached to the funds are often unsatisfactory to one party or the other, and adjustments often must be made or projects scrapped entirely.

Another problem to which the state office directly addresses itself is the disorganization which accompanies the duplication of services. "It is the office's specific job to coordinate the efforts into a cohesive unit."

The state officials also suggested that students study the state statutes for loop-holes in enforcement and the composition of pollution-control committees.

Barr and Kuzelka distributed lists of people and offices to contact in local, state, regional, and federal levels