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Registration plans outlined

Controversy over the constitutional amendment granting 18-year-olds the right to vote seems to be settling mainly into two areas: a conflict between the two major parties over registration procedures for the newly enfranchised young, and a conflict in college towns between local governments and the masses of potential young voters on university campuses.

Today The Daily Nebraskan takes a look at these two conflicts from both a national and local vantage point.

First is a report and analysis by staff writer Dennis Snyder, who spent a week interviewing state and local officials of both parties.

Nebraska Secretary of State Allen J. Beerman has said his office is not going to press the issue of where a student registers, but Beerman, speaking earlier this summer, warned students of the differences between registering in their home town and registering in Lancaster County.

"If the students own a motor vehicle," Beerman said, "they must then register their autos in Lincoln and pay a higher property tax. They'll also have to pay the city's wheel tax, and insurance premiums also are higher in Lancaster county," he added.

The 31-year-old Republican also explained that once the students changed their registration, they would no longer be permitted to vote in their home towns.

A check with the Lancaster County Election Commission verified this, but the commission also added that as long as a person fulfilled the county and precinct residency requirements, he could not be prevented from changing his registration. Another problem arises after the student decides where he wants to vote and tries to get registered at his local county election commission or county clerk's office.

One key to a high voter registration is convenience, and while local clerks usually open branch offices in public places

prior to elections, very few maintain more than normal office hours the rest of the year.

A phone survey of Nebraska's three most populous counties revealed that Douglas County is the most accommodating to the newly enfranchised voters.

According to Deputy Election Commissioner Mike Boyle, Douglas County will put an expanded registration plan into action sometime after January 1, and primarily concentrate on the new voters.

Sarpy County is also planning to expand registration locations, but has yet to set a date. Of the three, only Lancaster County is lacking some form of additional program to get the new voters registered.

Politically, both parties are in favor of getting the new voters registered, but neither can agree on the best method.

The controversy followed Governor J. J. Exon's recommendation that everything possible should be done to register the new voters. The governor's plan included the deputizing of school officials, who would then register the students at their respective high schools.

Exon was answered by Republican State Party Chairman Milan Bish, who suggested that the governor had not researched registration

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Zumberge . . . "The younger generation has a good thing going."

Regents appoint Zumberge chancellor

By Bill Smitherman

Students should be listened to in the university community as long as they are rational in their approach, according to Dr. James H. Zumberge, chancellor-elect of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

In a special meeting Saturday the Board of Regents appointed Zumberge to the post of UNL chancellor and vice-president of the university system effective Feb. 1, 1972.

ZUMBERGE WILL succeed Joseph Soshnik who resigned effective Sept. 1 to accept a position with an Omaha investment firm. C. Peter Magrath, dean of faculties, will continue to act as UNL chancellor until Zumberge assumes the job.

Presently dean of the College of Earth Sciences at the University of Arizona, Zumberge was the chief glaciologist for the United States Ross Ice Shelf Project in Antarctica for the International Geophysical Year.

Zumberge's appointment was the result of a search begun when Soshnik announced his resignation in early spring.

AT THE SPECIAL meeting NU President D. B. Varner said Zumberge's name was among seven submitted to the Regents by a special UNL search committee. Zumberge, Varner said, was the first choice of the Regents and was the only candidate approached for the job.

The Arizona dean was reluctant to accept the job and even publicly announced in July that he had withdrawn his name from consideration for the UNL post. But a trip to Arizona by Varner persuaded him to come to Lincoln and look at the campus.

After an August 27 dinner with the Board of Regents, Zumberge decided to accept the post.

IN THE SHORT meeting the Regents approved Zumberge's appointment in a voice vote with seven in favor and one abstention. Regent Robert Prokop of Wilber was the abstention.

Prokop later said he had abstained because he was dissatisfied with the search procedure, since the Regents only interviewed one candidate on the list.

"I basically feel that if the search committee sent us a list, we should have had the opportunity to interview at least two or three candidates," Prokop said.

ON ADVICE OF legal counsel the Regents later took a roll call vote and Zumberge was approved unanimously.

Prokop said his favorable vote on the roll call indicated he was "supportive of the man they chose." He said the choice would have probably been the same if more than one candidate had been interviewed.

In a news conference after the meeting Zumberge said students should be involved in University decision-making to the extent they can provide relevant input.

POINTING TO THE new 18 year-old vote, Zumberge said youth is being listened to. "The younger generation has a good thing going and we need to make it even better," he said.

The new chancellor said he hopes the college situation is stabilizing as students realize they do have a voice. He added though that public institutions are increasingly under fire by the public.

"We have failed to maintain our credibility with the people who pay the bills," he said. "I'm not really sure where we have slipped."

HE SAID HE WAS reluctant in his decision to take the chancellorship because of his involvement in geology and plans for new Antarctic expeditions.

Zumberge was the chief organizer for expeditions to the

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State approval of the 26th Amendment, (lowering the voting age to 18, is a positive attempt to get the young people of America active in the political process.

One of the problems resulting from ratification is that people are now realizing the possible effects in local elections if students were to start registering in the cities where they go to school.

Voting in a bloc, the students could wield an immense amount of power. It is this idealistic and allegedly irresponsible fervor which citizens fear. Nebraska residents are no exception.

As a result of this fear, many states are requiring students to register in their home towns, regardless of where the students wish to establish their legal residence.

Nebraska residency requirements for voting purposes state that a person must be a resident of the state six months, the county 40 days, and the precinct in which they will vote 10 days.

In addition, local officials must also determine the "intent" of students who intend to claim Lincoln, instead of their home town, as their residence.

The Nebraska secretary of state's office is recommending that students register and vote in their home towns. They claim this would prevent unneeded confusion when students go home in May, and also keep the students' voter registration current.

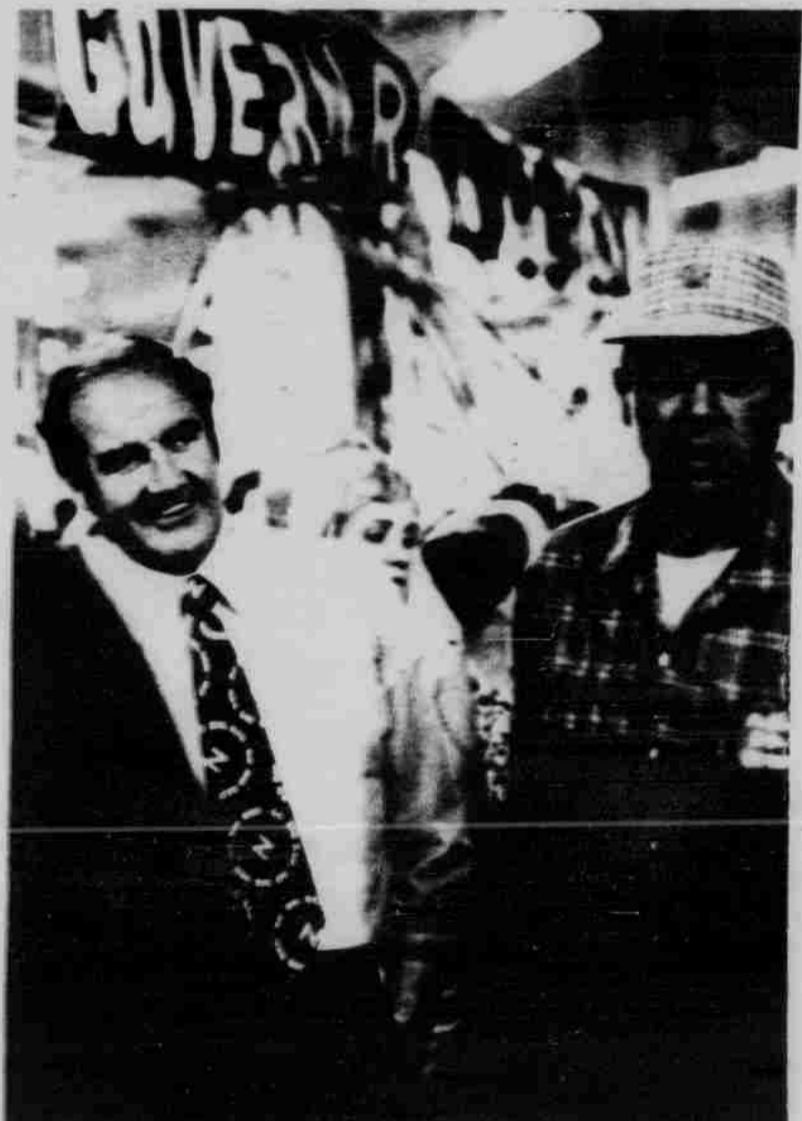
Ralph Englert, administrative assistant to

Search Committee seeks medical head

A 14-member search committee has been appointed by President D.B. Varner to develop a list of nominees for the post of chancellor at the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha.

Dr. William Ruegamer, chairman of the Department of Biochemistry at the Medical Center, is the search committee chairman.

The new chancellor will succeed Cecil Wittson, the present chancellor, who will retire in 1972.



Stumping for votes . . . U.S. Sen. George McGovern (D-S.D.), an announced Presidential candidate, spent almost three hours shaking hands at the Nebraska State Fair Sunday. He was escorted by former Nebraska Gov. Frank B. Morrison. The candidate earned a "Go Big Red" tie for his afternoon's effort, and asked bystanders, "Does this mean I'm No. 1?"