

NFU, ASUN sponsor prison reform panel

The Chairman of the Legislature's Law Enforcement and Judiciary Advisory Committee asked students in the Nebraska Union Ballroom Tuesday how they expect to get money for a new penal complex when the Legislature won't even appropriate money for an addition to Love Library.

Sen. Roland Luedtke was a member of a seven-man panel discussing prison institutions and reform being sponsored by the Nebraska Free University and ASUN.

He said the only way to get bills passed to improve the lot of prisoners is for people to contact their state legislator and express an interest in prison reform.

Luedtke said he is enthusiastic about the possibilities of the new

eight-man legislative committee. "I am trying to get Sen. Chambers of Omaha to feel some of that enthusiasm," he said.

The senator said committee members have taken a trip to Wisconsin to inspect the Box Lake Institution there. "The warden introduced us to what he calls 'habilitation,' the process of giving prisoners an ability in educational and vocational areas they have never had," he said.

Luedtke said committee member Sen. Terry Carpenter kept saying "This isn't a prison, it's a college campus." The chairman said the committee has had input from prisoners and has studied such things as the possibility of conjugal visits by inmates' wives and furloughs for prisoners.

Rozman . . .

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Healey: "How do you manifest leadership?"

Spelts: "He was part of the leading group."

Healey persisted in asking how Spelts had concluded Rozman had been one of the leaders of the demonstration. Spelts responded, "because I said so," and Healey asked no further questions.

Flavel Wright, attorney for the Regents, asked Spelts if he had asked to be a member of the commission.

"I sure did not," he replied.

Wright then asked if it was true the commission had a "great deal of misinformation".

"Yes, sir," Spelts replied.

"BUT YOU WORKED as

best you could under the circumstances?" Wright asked.

"Yes," Spelts replied.

Testimony was also heard from Morris J. Bruckner, a local attorney who worked with a special faculty fact-finding committee, known as the Holtzclaw Committee, which investigated Rozman's involvement in the demonstrations.

Bruckner related the incidents of a Feb. 5, 1971 meeting attended by himself, members of the Holtzclaw Committee, members of the Board of Regents, NU Pres. D. B. Varner, former Pres. Joseph Soshnik, C. Peter Magrath (then dean of faculties) and Wright.

BRUCKNER STATED he

'The Cage' criticizes American penal system

"The Cage", a play written, directed and acted by a company of ex-convicts, held a University of Nebraska-Lincoln audience captive for 80 minutes Tuesday with its indictment of the American prison system.

The only stage props used by the troupe, The Barbwire Theater, were four khaki blankets and a toilet stool in the center of the stage.

The drama explores the relationship of the four men who occupy the cell. The four are Hatchet, whose name is indicative of his favorite tool of trade; Doc, a domineering homosexual; Jive, a recent college graduate convicted of murdering his girl friend; and Al, a crippled queen who becomes who becomes jealous when Doc neglects him in a play for Jive.

Caged together, they begin to prey off one another and at one point one of the actors says, "This isn't a cell; cells represent life, cages represent death."

After the performance of "The Cage" the actors returned to answer a wide range of questions from the audience. They were joined by Dede Ford who will replace Actor Gary Pettinger, who will be returned to prison. Pettinger has been out on an appeal of a conviction for draft evasion.

Ford refused to comment on the death of George Jackson, saying "he will always be a friend of mine." All the actors are parolees of San Quentin.

However Jerry Joyce said, "My personal feeling is that George Jackson was murdered. If he could have smuggled a gun into that security area he wouldn't have needed it. Anybody who could get a gun in there could walk on water and through walls."

The ex-convicts said that prison officials discourage the inmates from grouping together in a venture such as the Barbwire Theater because they feel trouble will result.

"The warden should work diligently trying to phase his operation out," Ross said when asked what he felt a warden's job should entail. "But they don't. They should allow the inmates to get involved in projects so that the better part of the inmates can come out. A little humanity goes a long way in an environment like that."

Ford stated emphatically that preferential treatment is given to prisoners who were prosperous or had high social status before their conviction.

"Hell yes, man. It isn't very often that a man like this is convicted but when he is in custody he has everything at his disposal he had outside."

He also said prisoners convicted of draft violations are at the bottom of the prison pecking order.

"Let's face it," he said, "the majority of prisoners are pro flag-wavers. The draft card burner is at that bottom of the ladder and he is fair game for everybody."

felt the committee had fulfilled its function, as stated. The committee said Rozman did not act inappropriately.

Rozman testified for more than an hour. He recounted his actions during the events of May 4, 1970.

Rozman said he had been part of the group which went to the Selective Service offices that day. He testified that he had spoken with officials at the draft board, and answered "no" when asked if he had

done anything of a disruptive nature there.

"Did you hold the conscience of your act," Healey asked.

"Oh, yes," Rozman replied. "I never say anything I don't believe."

THAT EVENING Rozman said he was with a second group which left the meeting at UMHE for the ROTC building, because "I don't like to be too impulsive."

Rozman then described his

actions and observations during the time he was in the ROTC building.

"I still had a little optimism about communicating with the Nixon Administration," he said. "I thought I was communicating by being there."

He said he later became aware of the arrival of UNL administrators at the building. He entered the room where they were "negotiating" with students "to observe," he said.

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