



Diggs... Chairman of Black Congressional Caucus.

Diggs explains black plans

by Bill Smitherman

Emerging power groups, Congressional reform and black political plans were topics covered Tuesday by Representative Charles Diggs of Michigan.

The Democratic congressman, who founded the Black Congressional Caucus and is now its chairman, said in the Nebraska Union many urban representatives have a difficult time in understanding why Mid-America sends so many generally conservative people to Congress.

Diggs, who has been in Congress for nine terms, said it has been his experience that congressional representatives generally reflect the consensus of opinion in their areas.

He called the 18-year-old vote encouraging and said he saw the possibility of the vote leading to liberal cells in traditionally conservative areas. This will be helpful in getting the interchange of ideas necessary for people to begin to understand the problems of the country, Diggs said.

"I see some hope in the expectation that the new voter

bloc will recognize the effect it can have," Diggs said. "Some 30 per cent of those who will vote next year will have never voted before."

"I am encouraged by the willingness of many people to try to utilize the political system to solve the problems of the country," Diggs said. "This is where we will get the change so many of us have been seeking."

Diggs is chairman of the House subcommittee on Africa and has visited 40 of the 41 African countries in the United Nations in that capacity. The Congressman is also serving as a member of the U.S. delegation to the U.N.

He talked of the emerging powers in Africa and noted that 41 of the 131 countries in the U.N. are African.

These countries consider themselves members of the third world complex and thus associate with Asian countries, Diggs said. With the introduction of Red China's powerful leadership into the world body these countries are becoming an important force, he said.

Diggs warned that the U.S.

will have to deal with this new power coalition in the years to come. He warned against what he called neo-isolationism as a reaction to world events.

The Representative called Congress an unreformed institution which continues to frustrate those who seek change.

Some advances have been made though, he said. Diggs praised the work of House Speaker Carl Albert but suggested the speaker might not have enough power to become truly effective.

The Detroit congressman said that recent rule changes removing unrecorded votes from Hcuse procedure is a significant step toward forcing members to put their feelings on record. But, many of the House rules still make it impossible for the will of the majority to be enacted, he said.

Speaking of black political plans, Diggs said the Caucus has organized several national political programs. A Black Political Convention is planned for the spring of 1972 to plan political strategy for the 1972 election and beyond, he said.

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Student questions fee earmarking

by H.J. Cummins

Each UNL student pays \$51.50 per semester in student fees, \$14.50 of which he is told goes to the "Debt Service for Bond Financed Facilities: Student Union and Student Health." That is, the money goes to pay off bonds floated to build the Health Center and to expand the Nebraska Union.

UNL Comptroller Carl Yost said "those identifications have been eliminated even though we neglected to do it administratively."

He explained the fees are "not earmarked" in any way now, but yearly join an approximate \$1,480,000 from housing revenue, and \$40,000 from Nebraska Center revenue to collectively pay off a 1966 \$15,990,000 bond issue.

THE ISSUE ALSO incorporated a 1964 bond issue, since institutions can legally only have one bond against them. The two totaled \$28,999,000, Yost said.

The student fee break-down allots \$9.50 per student per semester (for 30 years or until the year 2001) specifically to paying the bond floated to pay for the 1967 \$1,350,000 Nebraska Union addition.

Quick figuring shows the money generated from the \$9.50 will total more than \$10 million dollars.

Yost said that money "is in no way guaranteed to the Union."

THE \$5 per student per semester specifically allocated to paying the bond for the 1955 construction of the Health Center is still being collected although the bond itself ended September 1 of this year.

Arrangements of the

15-year bond, begun September 1, 1956 were explained in a July 18, 1955 Regents' meeting as follows:

"It was moved by Regent Earle Johnson, seconded by Regent Greenberg, motion put to vote and unanimously carried directing that effective Sept. 1, 1956, student fees and tuition shall be increased from \$80 to \$90 instate fee per semester and from \$160-\$180 outstate fee per semester... which additional fee will be used for the financing and retirement of bonds for the construction of a Student Health Center on the city campus at an estimated cost of \$500,000 and for the construction of an addition to the Student Union Building on city campus at an estimated cost of \$1,250,000.

"THE INCREASE will be

used as follows, \$5 for the retirement of bonds to be issued for the construction of a proposed student health building and \$5 for the construction of a proposed addition to the Student Union building."

The Nebraska Union was expanded in 1955 as well as 1967.

Regents' meeting minutes from Sept. 17, 1955 detail a business transaction between the University and Robert E. Schweser Co. of Omaha and Lincoln's National Bank of Commerce which authorized the company to sell:

"Some \$3,500,000 worth of revenue bonds as may be required for the purpose of constructing a Student Health Unit, an addition to the Student Union, dormitories for both men and women on the

city campus and the College of Agriculture, married student housing and faculty housing."

THE BONDS were issued, the University agreeing to pay \$4 per \$1000 in bonds sold.

Figures completed by Ron Baker, a fourth-year UNL Architecture student working on plans to expand the Health Center, show the Center's bond plus interest was paid in 1962. This leaves \$1,680,035 accumulated under the 1955 bond alone designated in the student fee breakdown for the Health Center bond. But, Dr. Samuel J. Fuenning, Health Center Director, said he has never seen those funds.

The \$5 is still being collected, although the 15 year bond has expired.

Yost protested Baker's figures are not valid since the bonds "were not separately

identified with Student Health or any of the other issues."

BAKER SAID he objects to the explicit break down given students if the money is not earmarked, and so really does not go to the places indicated to students.

"The students should know where their money goes and how it works," he said.

Yost said the money collected each semester is turned over to the trustee board at a Lincoln bank, to pay the money pledged yearly to the bond holders.

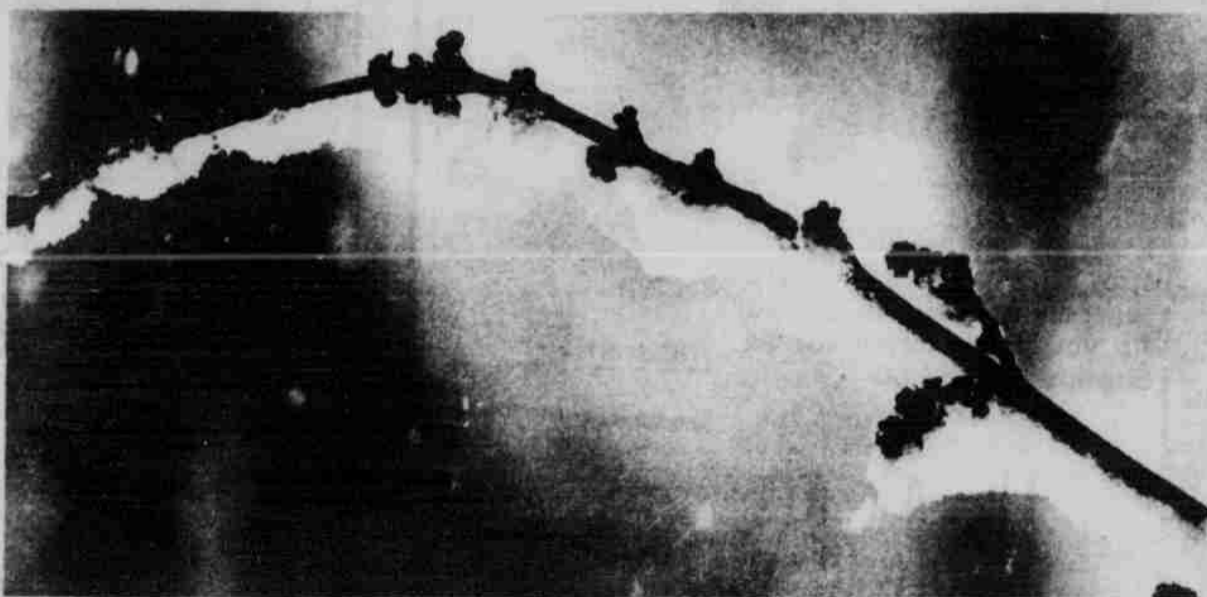
He emphasized bonds are considered good investments for individual buyers since the sale of bonds is so carefully regulated by the government. He said the Regents' pledging of the student fees each semester better insures the institution's ability to pay the bond holders, thus making them an even more attractive investment to the buying public.

THE 1966 BOND authorized the purchase of 12 acres of land and the construction of three dormitories (Harper, Schramm, Smith), five Greek houses and a swimming pool on the land, Yost said.

The money allocated to facilities never built—the fifth Greek house and the swimming pool, for example—plus yearly revenue from facilities pledged to paying the bond that exceeds the amount pledged for the year are accumulated in an account which Yost estimated equals about \$4 million now.

The money could conceivably be spent on expanding the Health Center,

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A SNOWY SCENE...greeted returning University students earlier this week. A blanket over the campus created a white world of glistening trees and slippery sidewalks. Winter had finally found Nebraska.