



"What? You've been working on this for days and this is all you've done?"

The debt question

For three hours Monday afternoon, the Education Committee of the Nebraska Legislature heard testimony concerning LB 1271. Sen. Gerald Stromer is the chief sponsor of the measure designed to prohibit the collection of mandatory student fees at any college or university in the state now supported wholly or partially by state appropriations.

Student fees are currently used to finance bonded indebtedness of the Nebraska Union and the University Health Center. Bonded indebtedness alone accounts for \$14.50 of the total \$51.50 assessed each student carrying seven hours or more. The balance includes money for the Health Center and Nebraska Union operations, recreational facilities, and a building and equipment fund for the Union. The

smallest amounts contained in the total \$51.50 are the \$.30 per semester for ASUN and the \$1.25 per semester for the Daily Nebraskan The Union Program Council, which handles all Union programs, is funded by only \$3 of the total.

Even though the Nebraskan and ASUN money amounts to only \$1.55, or less than five per cent of the total fee assessment, nearly all of the testimony in support of LB 1271 centered around the fee funding of these two organizations.

In his introduction of the measure to the Education Committee, Stromer mentioned nothing about bonded indebtedness, nor did he offer immediate solutions to problems that would arise should the bill pass.

Persons testifying in favor of the bill included two professors from UNL. The two professors, John Braeman of the history department and David Beaugard of the English department, expressed several criticisms directed specifically at the Daily Nebraskan.

Criticism of ASUN was offered to the Education Committee in much the same manner as the Daily Nebraskan was attacked. Steve Fowler, ASUN president, stated that he personally has never heard criticism in any form from either of these two professors.

LB 1271, regardless of the poor testimony on its behalf heard at Monday's hearing, still poses a direct threat to the University, its bonded indebtedness, its student programming and the many services students now enjoy.

If passed by the Unicameral in its present form it would only mean a tragic end to programs and operations that have taken years for the University community to build.

Barry Pilger

editorial

The upcoming retirement of two senior conservative Congressmen is about to give liberals working control of the static House Rules Committee, which exercises power over the flow of legislation to the floor of the House of Representatives.

Despite a partial wing-clipping in 1961, the Rules Committee has long been a roadblock for liberal programs. This could change next January with the indicated retirement of Chairman William M. Colmer of Mississippi. Nearly 80, Colmer has been in Congress since 1933. He will be replaced as chairman by the next-ranking Democrat, liberal Ray Madden of Gary, Ind. Madden's constituency includes a very large black population.

Augmenting this Democratic turnover is the departure of the committee's ranking Republican, California conservative H. Allen Smith. He will be succeeded by Illinois Rep. John B. Anderson, one of the House GOP's more articulate liberals.

Under this new leadership, the Rules Committee may well become a force for liberal programs rather than a frequent burial ground.

In the Interesting-Coincidental Department: Both President Nixon and his conservative Republican primary opponent, Congressman John Ashbrook, are sons of Democratic fathers from the same neck of the wood — central Ohio.

William Ashbrook was for many years a Democratic Congressman from central Ohio's Licking Valley. He described himself as a "Grover Cleveland" Democrat, and in his journals he attacked the Republicans as the party of Yankee business interests and big-city-controlled machines. John Ashbrook still publishes his father's old newspaper—the Johnstown Independent—in a small town 20 miles northeast of Columbus.

President Nixon's brother, Donald (quoted in Garry Wills' excellent book, "Nixon Agonistes"), says that his father,

too, began politics on the other side: "His people were Democrats in Ohio. But when my father was 12 or 13, he had a horse he was proud of; when William McKinley came to town campaigning, he noticed the horse and praised it. After that my father was a solid Republican."

Frank Nixon, like William Ashbrook, was vocal in his opposition to the big Eastern interests. He finally left Ohio for California, aged 25 or so, because he got frostbite in both feet as a conductor on the open streetcars of Columbus.

In a few months, the U.S. Census Bureau will be issuing a report on the so-called Spanish-Language population of the 50 states. This is the first time the Bureau has measured the Spanish population in every state, and preliminary data has revealed interesting facts.

Here is a tentative rank-ordering of the states with large Spanish-language population ratios: New Mexico (40 per cent); Arizona (19 per cent); Texas (18 per cent); Colorado (13 per cent); California (not yet finally tabulated); New York (not yet finally tabulated); Florida (7 per cent); Nevada (6 per cent); Wyoming (6 per cent); and New Jersey (not yet finally tabulated).

Until 1970, the Bureau's only Spanish data came from a 1960 "Spanish surname" survey of five Southwestern states. Last year's checkup located many more Spanish than were found ten years ago. Whereas Texas had 1,417,000 Spanish-surnamed persons in 1960, preliminary census data indicate that there are 2,059,000 persons today. Back in 1960, Arizona's total was just 194,000. The current figure is 333,000. New Mexico's Spanish element is computed at 407,000 rather than the 269,000 listed by the Spanish-surname tabulation.

Beyond the Southwest, there are surprises. Florida's 451,000 Spanish-language population is about what one would expect, but not Illinois' 364,000 (mostly concentrated in and

around Chicago). Officials were also surprised by the indicated Spanish total in Ohio — 95,000.

Louisiana weighed in with an unexpected 70,000, the great majority being New Orleans-area Caribbeans and South Americans. Washington State also has a Spanish-language population of 70,000.

When the tabulation is finalized, our national Spanish-language population total should come to well over 10,000,000.

Senator Edward Kennedy may be licking his chops over the wrong precedent when he describes how President Nixon has usually come apart at the seams during election campaigns. The Massachusetts Senator is correct when he says that the President's poor campaigning dissipated wide poll leads in the 1960 Presidential race, the 1962 California gubernatorial clash, and the 1968 Presidential election.

However, these were Nixon bids for a new office, and in 1972 Mr. Nixon is running as an incumbent to hold an office he already has. Given the President's political style, the distinction is vital. He is an unappealing officeseeker but an effective incumbent. The last time he sought re-election in his own right, as an incumbent, was in 1948. Only two years after scoring an upset victory, he had become so entrenched that he was able to win the Democratic nomination for re-election to Congress in addition to his continuing Republican endorsement! Come November, and he was returned to Congress without opposition. In 1950, he moved on to the Senate.

Since then, Richard Nixon has never—excluding the Vice Presidential service—run for re-election in his own right to an office he already held. Nineteen-Seventy-Two will see his first personal re-election bid since 1948.

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