



Richmond (right) . . . at a meeting last Friday with Interim Executive Dean of Students Ely Meyerson.

by Michael (O. J.) Nelson

Officials to meet with Housing Coalition

University officials will be meeting with representatives of low-income groups this Friday at 10 a.m. The meeting is in response to a request made by the Poorhouse Coalition last Wednesday at a rally held in the Nebraska Union.

Four of the five officials originally invited to the meeting have agreed to attend. They are Dean of Faculties C. Peter Magrath, Harry Allen, director of institutional research and planning, James Lake, president of the Faculty Senate and ASUN President Steve Fowler.

President D. B. Varner's office said that he has scheduled the meeting. However, Varner is also to spend the day with U.S.

Sen. Roman Hruska.

Of those invited to the meeting, only Fowler has agreed to sign the "Declaration of Responsibility" which the coalition presented to the office of then Interim Chancellor Magrath.

Signing the document was to be a prerequisite to the meeting, but this requirement will be overlooked according to Bea Richmond, president of the City-wide Tenants Association.

"We'll sit down and find out why they don't want to sign it," she said, "and if we reach some conclusion we won't meet again until it's signed."

The document called for low-income input into University planning and a

promise from the University to build enough housing to keep students from competing with low-income families. The declaration also called upon the University to liberalize dormitory regulations in order to make that sort of housing more attractive to students.

Allen said that he could agree with many things in the document, but could not sign it "at this time."

"There are just too many things I don't agree with," he said. One of the things he said he could not agree with is the request that the University immediately begin to build housing.

"We can't get the federal funds we need without a study," he said. "Right now we don't know what the specific problems are. We don't even know why people move out of University housing."

Allen said that he didn't believe that loosening housing regulations would encourage people to stay in the residence halls.

"As I see it," he added, "the problem is mainly the cost. We just can't compete (with off-campus housing) price-wise. We haven't dealt with the question of liberalizing the regulations."

Regent Ed Schwartzkopf said "the University is doing those people a favor by tearing down some of that housing."

He charged that "the Tenants' Association is using good housing for office space. A low-income family could live where they have that office."

Richmond claimed however, that the house being used for the Poorhouse office is not fit for people to live in.

He said that homes that were torn down in the past were substandard.

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Editor's note -- This is the third in a series of articles concerning themselves with the way the problems of aging are dealt with in society.

by Mary Voboril

"How terribly strange to be seventy," wrote lyricist Paul Simon.

What is it like to reach the age of retirement? Does one's life suddenly end? Are people thrust into a social vacuum? Is retirement a synonym for idleness, loneliness, alienation?

It certainly does not have to be, as evidenced by two retired Lincoln couples.

"You only have one time to live, and that's when you're alive," said James M. Reinhardt, 78, of Lincoln. A 32-year member of the UNL sociology department, including a stint as head of the department, Reinhardt retired in 1963.

Since then, he has published six articles and is working on others. Of the 12 books he has written, two were completed during his eight years of retirement. One, *Nothing Left But Murder*, is a study of teenage murders. The other, *The Final Echo*, is a collection of his short stories.

Although he says he "never thinks about looking back" to his younger days, Reinhardt's activity was "sharply reduced" when he retired. The lessened activity that retirement brings, said Reinhardt, "wouldn't have been such a blow to me if I had slowed down before I retired. I wouldn't have noticed it so much then."

Despite the lessened activity, Reinhardt says he and his wife Cora Lee, 72, never get bored. Both read quite a lot, then discuss with each other what they read. Sometimes they watch television,

especially news programs, and they enjoy visiting with Reinhardt's former students.

Because of financial reasons and doctor's orders, the Reinhardts were forced to sell their car. This move handicapped them quite a bit, Reinhardt said, but they rely on the city buses to get around town.

About three days a week, Reinhardt boards the Vet's Hospital bus and heads for the UNL campus, where he does research at Love library.



A specialist in criminology, Reinhardt also lectures at conventions and universities. For short times during his retirement, he taught at Midland College, John F. Kennedy College and the former University of Omaha.

Reinhardt says he is "content" in his retirement, especially since it gives him more time to meditate.

"I'm a pessimist at heart," he said. "I worry about the world situation and human tragedy." He said he has always felt badly about wars such as Vietnam.

"When you drop a bomb, you kill not only grown men, you kill babies and little children," he said.

Like the Reinhardts, Mr. and Mrs. Gail

McDonald also of Lincoln have not let retirement get them down. McDonald, 78 a former rural mail carrier who in the 1920's sometimes delivered mail by horseback, has been retired 17 years.

He and his wife who was born in 1899 in a sod house near O'Neill, moved from Elmwood to Lincoln two years ago.

About three days a week, the McDonalds take advantage of the Senior Citizens centers in Lincoln. At the centers they "mostly play cards" (bridge, canasta, pinochle), and McDonald sometimes bowls.

In season McDonald plays an occasional nine holes of golf with his brothers, one of whom is in his 80's. On a good day he shoots a 45 or a 48.

One of the most productive activities of Mrs. McDonald, who looks like anybody's grandmother, is sewing. In her 72 years, she has made about 51 quilts.

Although they wintered the past few years in Phoenix, where they lived close to their married son, the McDonalds decided to stay in Lincoln this year.

"We have all our friends here," Mrs. McDonald said.

They do not plan to move to a rest home or Senior Citizen's community for the same reason. Nor do they want to live with their children.

"No house is big enough for two families," Mrs. McDonald said.

The McDonalds save their money because they "might get sick someday" and for vacations. They now are planning a trip South with the Senior Citizens tours.

As Reinhardt said, "You only have one life to live, and that's when you're alive." With careful plans, lively interests and good health, there is no reason why the years of retirement should not be as rewarding as the years prior to it.

How terribly strange to be 70