

Senators consider conference decision

Two state senators appeared to take a "wait and see" attitude to the UNL Interim Program Arbitration Board (IPAB) decision that the World in Revolution Conference on Justice in America should go on as planned.

Recent speculation by some senators, University administrators and students was if the conference were held, it might prompt action on a bill to cut off state aid to institutions collecting mandatory student fees.

The legislature's Education Committee is currently holding Kearney Sen. Gerald Stromer's LB 1271, which calls for such action.

Lincoln Sen. Wally Barnett and Stromer, both Education Committee members, declined to comment directly on the planned conference.

"I think it is the Board of Regents' business," Barnett said. "The Board of Regents should run the University and when the people feel they are not doing their job, then the legislature will step in."

Barnett noted, however, that it would take only one or two votes in the committee to put the bill on the legislature floor. Stromer said the action by the IPAB came "quite expectedly."

The board, according to Stromer, was comprised of individuals who wanted to see the conference held.

Stromer said there is no doubt in his mind that with the recent announcement, there will be "greater discussion and debate on the bill" both in the legislature and by the general public.

Meyer 'casts cloud' over budget bills

Cold winter winds whistled through the windows of the Nebraska Legislature Wednesday morning and seemed to freeze much action by the state's 49 lawmakers. With nearly 100 bills on general file, senators spent most of the morning on six bills.

Among bills passed over until Thursday were those dealing with the state's budget for the next fiscal year.

At an 8:30 a.m. meeting, the legislature's Appropriations Committee decided not to request their version of the proposed omnibus state budget be returned to committee.

According to Hastings Sen. Richard Marvel, committee chairman, an opinion by the state attorney general has "cast some cloud over the format of the bill."

At an informal Unicameral meeting Tuesday, Atty. Gen. Clarence Meyer said some aspects of lump sum appropriation budgets or budgets which grant money without internal spending restrictions may be unconstitutional.

If that is the case, then both the committee's and governor's bills would need correction. Marvel thus asked that his committee be given an extra day to draft some proposed amendments.

University President D. B. Varner has sided with Gov. J. J. Exon and the five-member Appropriations Committee majority in pushing for lump sum budgeting.



Role-playing startles Senate

Six senators playing the parts of racists started a heated exchange of words before their unsuspecting colleagues at Wednesday's ASUN Senate meeting.

The move was intended to bring a resolution sponsored by Sen. Roy Baldwin into better perspective. The resolution states that the Senate should be more sensitive to the problems of minority students.

Baldwin said the reason he submitted the resolution was because he had committed himself to it after last December's ASUN meeting. An incident occurred at that meeting, according to the resolution, which resulted in derogatory and demeaning statements being made by several senators about candidates for senate vacancies.

Wednesday's mock-confrontation started getting out of hand, however, when students in the audience became involved. The six then told the Senate their actions had been intended to bring the Senate in contact with the racist attitudes that people have.

Psychologist Linda James was in the audience at the invitation of the six. She addressed the Senate and gave them her views of the reactions of some of senators.

She said racism is institutionalized in society and that children are programmed to be racist in their youth.

This is an example of what frequently goes on in situations like this, she said.

James pointed out that words in reference to blacks like "those people" and "you all" used by some of the role players are resented by blacks. "Everyone should be aware of what they are saying and why they say it," she said.

James said the goal of the six was to make the Senate more aware of what their attitudes really are, allowing each individual to deal with them himself. Bruce Beecher, one of the role players, said he was

disappointed that most senators sat and let things fly.

Sen. Mike Berns said students should take an active part in combating racism. "Anyone that sees the word 'nigger' scratched on a wall and doesn't scratch it out is as guilty of helping keep racism alive as the racist himself," he said.

The resolution was held over for consideration at next week's ASUN Senate meeting.

Daycare center opens

Nine-month-old to three-year-old children of UNL students now have their own day care center, according to Mary Jo Ryan, coordinator.

The free center located in the First Plymouth Congregational Church, 20th and D Streets, opened at the beginning of this semester, she said.

The center is operated through the University financial aids office, Ryan said.

"It is operated just like the one in the United Ministries in Higher Education church on campus, which is for children three through kindergarten," she said.

Students must be approved at the financial aids office in order to leave their children at the center, Ryan said.

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Regents meet Saturday

There will be a meeting of the University of Nebraska Board of Regents Saturday, Feb. 5, at 10 a.m. in 312 Milo Bail Student Center on the campus of the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

Included on the agenda will be:

- a report from NU Vice-President Merk Hobson on the feasibility study dealing with engineering.
- continued discussion on the feasibility study pertaining to nursing.
- appointment of the Board of Regents standing committee.

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