

State pension measure gets committee approval

A bill which would permit pension increases for retired state employees, including the University's retired professors, Thursday was advanced to general file by the Legislature's Constitutional Revision Committee.

Although 17 people testified at the hearing, no one spoke in opposition to LB 1414. Introduced by State Sen. Harold T. Moylan of Omaha, the bill permits the Legislature to adjust retirement benefits for retired public employees to reflect changes in the cost of living.

In testimony given on behalf of retired teachers, professors, state patrolmen and other public employees inflation was described as the main cause of hardship for those living on fixed incomes.

Ronald Jensen, director of the Nebraska Commission on Aging, said "inflation is particularly cruel to individuals literally caught in the jaws of a financial trap."

In testimony of the hearing, Marcus D. Welton, secretary of the Emeriti Association of retired University professors, said there are 55 retired faculty members who receive an average pay of \$1,057 a year.

These faculty members retired between 1948 and 1961, before the University's new retirement system was adopted. Under the old system, the maximum pension is \$2,400 a year.

Gene Budig, corporation secretary for the Board of Regents, told committee members he was appearing on behalf of University President D. B. Varner to "express his concern" that these retired professors "be allowed to have appropriate dignity in retirement."

Law Professor James Lake, president of the University Faculty Senate, and English teacher Lawrence Poston from the Nebraska chapter of the American Association of University Professors, also spoke on behalf of the emeriti professors.

If passed by the legislature, LB 1414 would be put on the November ballot for approval by the voters since it involves a change prohibited by the Nebraska Constitution.

If approved by the voters, the bill only allows the Legislature to increase pensions but doesn't make such increases mandatory.

It was the consensus of the committee, which voted 6-1, that the bill should go to a vote of the people, said committee chairman Sen. George Syas of Omaha.



Club sells ham for cash

An East Campus club has found a way to combine profit with pageant.

Each year Block and Bridle Club members sell top quality hams as holiday gifts. The project provides meat on Christmas tables, money in the Club's treasury and a new queen to reign for one year.

The students sell their "Holiday Hams" to relatives, friends and employers. Over 29,000 pounds of ham were sold as the club members vied for cash prizes and trophies awarded to the top five salesmen.

Sales committee co-chairmen Gary Kubicek and Larry Engstrom said they are pleased with this year's results. They noted the club outsold last year's membership by almost 6,000 pounds of ham.

When the final bills are paid, the club will be over \$3,000 richer.

In addition to the financial aspect of the ham sales there is the prospect of electing the 1972 Miss Block and Bridle. Club members are allowed one vote for each dollar's worth of meat they sell. Later they cast their total votes for the queen candidate of their choice.

The winner of the Queen Contest will be crowned during a dance at the East Union.

Five candidates have been selected by an interviewing committee to compete for the queen title. The candidates can earn votes by selling hams themselves and by campaigning among the club members for support.

This year the candidates are: Kathy Geiger, Sara Klemm, Sheryl Rathman, Linda Rasmussen and Kay Munn.

Any coed in at least her second semester at the University is eligible to apply for the Miss Block and Bridle title.

The over 120-members of UNL's Block and Bridle Club are all animal science majors or students interested in the study of animal science.

Block and Bridle began as a national organization in 1919. At that time, four animal science clubs from Kansas, Missouri, Iowa and Nebraska joined to found a national group for students interested in the care and raising of domestic animals.

The Nebraska chapter has the full support of the UNL animal science department. Three faculty members from that department serve as advisers for three-year terms.

The Nebraska chapter ranked third overall last year in national competition.

In the late summer the club sponsors many of the trophies given away at the State Fair in Open, 4-H and FFA divisions of livestock competition.

Block and Bridle also sponsors a livestock and meat judging contest during the academic year.

Physics educators meet

About 60 high school and college physics faculty members from the Lincoln area are attending a symposium on the "Crisis in Science Education," Friday in the Nebraska Union.

Keynote speaker is John W. Fowler, director of the Commission on College Physics from the Department of Physics and Astronomy at the University of Maryland. He will discuss "The Priorities in Physical Science Education for the Seventies" in an address at 4:30 p.m. in the Nebraska Union.

Topics for group discussions earlier in the day include faculty renewal and reward, redesign of undergraduate education, training and evaluation of teaching assistants and academic and educational research.

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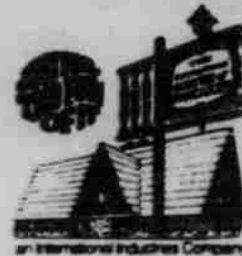
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The Daily Nebraskan is written, edited and managed by students at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and is editorially independent of the University faculty, administration and student body.

The Daily Nebraskan is published by the CSL subcommittee on publications Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday throughout the school year, except holidays and vacations.

Second class postage paid at Lincoln, Nebraska 68508.

Address: The Daily Nebraskan/34 Nebraska Union/Lincoln, Neb., 68508. Telephone 402/472/2588.