



UNL: PROGRESS IS OUR MOST IMPORTANT PRODUCTION!

Pavement or pines? ASUN alternatives

At Saturday's Board of Regents meeting officials were given the go-ahead on a construction project in conjunction with the city of Lincoln. The project calls for the widening of Holdrege Street from 48th west to 45th.

A part of the proposal is the destruction and removal of 34 large Austrian pine trees. Plans call for the replacement of the trees and landscaping of the renovated area using the money received from the City of Lincoln in exchange for the land.

Very simply, trees take a long time to grow and only a short time to remove or destroy.

Many people can remember a few years ago when the Sculpture Garden was being planned a number of students rallied to protest the alleged removal of several large trees from the mall area in front of Architecture Hall. That incident demonstrated the ecological consciousness prevalent on this campus then. It can only be hoped that that same consciousness still persists in an effort to save the 34 Austrian pines now beautifying the Holdrege street area between 45th and 48th.

Barry Pilger

A committee known as the ASUN Reorganizational Committee is setting about the task of investigating alternate structures for the UNL student government. They have stated that "the student community at UNL can only be truly determined by the members themselves."

Tommorrow, Tuesday, February 8, they are holding an open hearing in the Union to listen to ideas anyone has to present concerning the future direction of student government on this campus. They will be willing to hear comments on any phase of government as it now exists and how it could or should become in the future.

ASUN has now the authority to appoint most student members of faculty-student committees, including the Council on Student Life. This is the most important aspect of student government. Regardless of what many critics of ASUN have said, this input can be most influential in decisions that affect many aspects of everyday University life.

The hearing tomorrow is everyone's chance to be heard. ASUN is willing to listen. The UNL student association in the future can be only as influential as the students who compose it.

editorial

President Nixon's dramatic revelation of his Vietnam peace offers not only stunned the nation, it came within a hair's breadth of destroying the two-party system in America.

For in the week that followed the 43 Democrats running for President cancelled a total of 207 major addresses, 312 press conferences and 1,407 kaffeeklatsches.

"After all," glumly said one who was nailed by a reporter while trying to sneak out of his hotel room disguised as a chambermaid, "what's there to say?"

It seemed as though the President had now adopted every solution the Democrats had offered to the country's ills—from wage and price and controls to a guaranteed annual income. They could hardly attack him for that. So each retired behind locked doors to think up something to say. And there each stayed.

By the time the primaries began in March, few Democrats bothered to vote—few Democrats being able to remember the names of the candidates. And so the Democratic Convention opened in July with every single delegate uncommitted. Not to mention unenthusiastic. Indeed, a motion was made to disband the party and go home.

Clearly, the moment was ripe for a

dark horse to galvanize the throng. One did — the hitherto-unheard-of Homer T. Pettibone.

Pettibone, an alternate delegate from Decatur, was given the podium because no one else had anything to say. He electrified the crowd with a vitriolic attack on President Nixon's deficit spending policies.

"Spend and spend, elect and elect," cried Pettibone, "that's all the Republicans know!"

The Democrats, who hadn't heard an attack on Nixon in six months, nominated Pettibone by acclamation. And he lived up to their fondest expectations.

In his first campaign speech, Pettibone ripped into the President's welfare reform plan. "Coddling loafers saps individual initiative," he thundered. "Let's get these bums off the welfare rolls and on to the payrolls!"

In his very next speech he attacked Mr. Nixon's wage and price controls as a "desperate, hare-brained scheme of a fiscally irresponsible Administration" and "a clear threat to our free enterprise system which made this country great." When elected, he promised, he would remove all controls immediately and "restore our cherished freedoms."

This went over well with the public, which was getting as tired of controls as it was of welfare. But what roused the Nation was Pettibone's attack on the President's foreign policy.

First, he talked of Mr. Nixon flying "all the way to Peking and Moscow to cozy up to the Communists." Then he demanded to know who had sold the President his "no-win policy in Vietnam." And lastly he charged that Dr. Kissinger's third cousin on his mother's side was a known friend of Alger Hiss!

By October, Pettibone was describing the Republicans as "the party of treason" and contending the President was at the very least "soft on Communism," if not "a conscious tool of the Communist conspiracy."

It looked like Pettibone in a landslide. But in the last weeks of the campaign, the President balanced the budget, abolished welfare, removed all controls and declared war on China, Russia and Albania. Thus was the two-party system saved.

"Well, gentlemen," an angry Pettibone told the press in his hour of defeat, "you won't have Homer T. Pettibone to kick around any more."

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