

Legislature ends stormy session

The west legislative chamber of the Nebraska state capitol is quiet today. The second session of the 82nd Legislature died late Wednesday afternoon.

Sine die adjournment came at 5:10 p.m. on a motion from retiring Sen. Ellen Craft of North Platte.

Death didn't come quietly for this Unicameral session, as Gov. J. J. Exon strongly criticized senators for inaction in several areas and spending too much money.

In a short address to senators, Exon repeated several times, "We shall try again next year."

Exon noted, "Our differences have been frequent." He praised new legislation in the fields of drug control and veteran benefits.

The Nebraska governor, however, strongly

attacked senators for spending excessive amounts of money in many fields while failing to appropriate sufficient funds in other areas.

Among the areas where he criticized senators for inaction were in not lowering the night-time highway speed limit back to 60 miles per hour and failure by the Judiciary Committee to report out a bill setting stiffer penalties for assaulting police officers and prison guards.

An unofficial tally showed senators passed 369 bills in this year's session. Over 75 other bills died a quick death when final adjournment came Wednesday.

Senators appeared to disagree on the quality of the session.

Scottsbluff Sen. Terry Carpenter called it the "most outstanding session in my 16 years."

Neligh Sen. John DeCamp felt senators spent a "tremendous amount of money and achieved far less than we should have."

Sen. Harold Simpson of Lincoln called this year's session the "toughest" he's ever attended.

Sen. Gerald Stromer of Kearney felt "time was not spent well."

Several senators named the massive reorganization of the state's court system as the most important piece of legislation to come from the session.

Others were likely to name the "pet" project they pushed through.

Several senators felt Omaha Sen. Ernie Chambers was the most successful senator in getting personal legislation adopted.

A bill Chambers pushed forcing the election of Omaha school board members by district was passed on final reading Wednesday. Most observers speculated the bill had little if any chance of passage.

Chambers was also to force the end of proration of Aid to Dependent Children (ADC) payments. Exon had vetoed the bill but senators moved to successfully override the veto. Other Chambers-sponsored bills passed were ones exempting insulin from sales tax and providing special welfare funds for children in need of special dietary foods.

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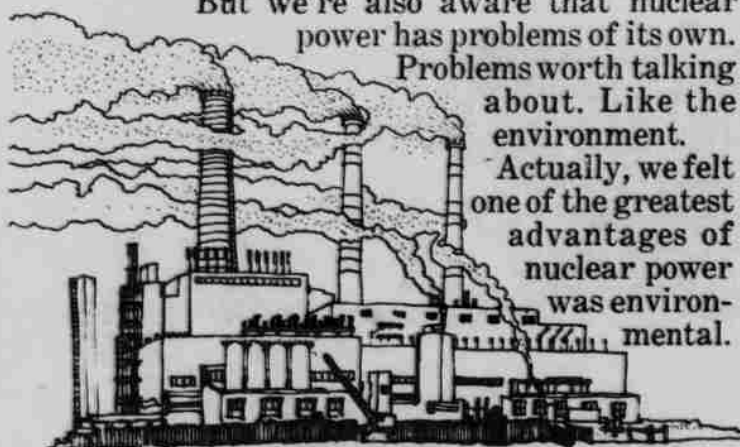
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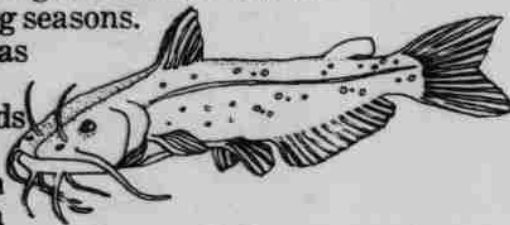
But, in addition, utilities are sponsoring basic research on heat exchange and its ef-

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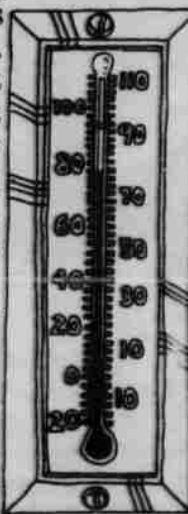
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