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Groups battle over McGovern

by Chris Harper and Michael (O.J.) Nelson

The two booths in the Nebraska Union stand close together, but politically, the occupants are worlds apart.

The two groups, Students for McGovern (SM) and Youth Against McGovern (YAM), grapple for the attention of UNL students who pass through the Union lobby between classes.

More than 250 UNL students are SM members, according to Coordinator Patti Humlicek. The UNL group, part of a national network that includes all Nebraska campuses, plans voter registration and canvassing as its major election tactics, she said.

The YAM is trying to "mobilize youth opposition to the candidacy of George McGovern," according to Terry Cannon, YAM state chairman.

"We are non-partisan." "YAM is not working directly with the Nixon campaign because many of our members don't want to endorse some of the President's policies."

He said some YAM members believe the Nixon administration has not given adequate attention to research and development of military weapons. Many of the same members, he said, are "not enthusiastic" about some of Nixon's welfare proposals, and consider them too liberal.

YAM is a semi-independent committee of the Young Americans for Freedom (YAF), he said. The YAF is a national organization of conservative youth. Cannon is also YAF state chairman.

More than 140 UNL students have volunteered to work with YAM, he said. The group will work with UNL's 100-member YAF against the Democratic presidential nominee, Cannon said.

Defense spending, domestic affairs, taxation, foreign affairs and agriculture policy appear to be the major points of departure between the two groups.

"George McGovern believes in cutting the waste in government," Humlicek said. "His defense proposal would not cripple the U.S., but it would cut back on

useless waste and outdated elements in the defense budget."

"George McGovern's slogan, 'Come home, America,' is a cop-out," Cannon said. The United States needs a strong internationalist foreign policy to protect the country's overseas interests, he maintained.

Humlicek labeled Nixon's domestic policies as "inconsistent."

"Nixon has continually vetoed child-care centers, but at the same time he supports increases in defense spending," she said.

"Several years ago Nixon was calling young people 'bums'. Now that they can vote, he's saying 'I love you.'"

McGovern's new welfare proposal which she said provides \$3,000 for a family of four and additional food stamp and health care supplements, is feasible, she said.

She also cited the *Time* magazine Board of Economists contention that the new welfare program would not create substantial tax increases.

Cannon said McGovern also is inconsistent.

"I doubt his credibility," he said. "He has changed his stand on welfare as well as on Southeast Asia."

Last spring McGovern had proposed a \$1,000 national give-away to every person, Cannon said, adding that he changed his stand prior to the California primary.

He also had called for an immediate withdrawal of all forces from Southeast Asia, according to Cannon, but later amended his position to include continuation of a residual force in Thailand.

Cannon branded McGovern's economic policies as "political opportunism." He said there are no major economists who agree with McGovern's welfare increase-tax decrease policy.

"McGovern is the only candidate besides Rep. Shirley Chisholm who even considers women's rights as an issue," Humlicek said.

Cannon did not discuss women's rights.

Loopholes and corporate taxes also prompted divergent opinions from the two students.

Humlicek said she supports McGovern's proposals to close tax loopholes and to raise the corporate tax rate 6 per cent.

"It's unfair that 40 per cent of all U.S. corporations don't pay taxes," Humlicek added. "Why shouldn't a certain sector of society pay their fair share? The money that can be raised from an increase in the corporation tax and the discontinuation of the oil depletion allowance will be substantial."

Cannon said the elimination of tax loopholes would hurt the middle and upper middle class most. He said the majority of people using loopholes are making \$10,000 to \$25,000 a year.

Elimination of the oil depletion allowance would also be disadvantageous, he said. If the allowance were axed, he said, it would make well-drilling unprofitable and endanger the nation through a possible loss of one of its major power resources.

Foreign affairs sparked the most controversy between the two.

Humlicek praised Nixon's policies concerning Russia and China but slammed his Vietnam policy.

Cannon said he dislikes Nixon's posture toward Communist countries but added that he supports the President's Vietnam doctrine.

"There would be no gain for the North Vietnamese to keep our prisoners after a complete withdrawal of troops," Humlicek said. "How many more U.S. soldiers have been killed and how many more have been taken prisoner in the last four years because of Nixon's policy? We're merely going in a circular pattern."

The SM leader also said she endorses McGovern's stand on amnesty for draft resisters.

"I support general amnesty because the Vietnam situation has to be considered differently from any other war. Vietnam is a moral issue," she said. "There are some people who just left but there are many more draft resisters that left America for reasons of conscience and they deserve amnesty."

The United States needs a bargaining tool to use on the North Vietnamese to secure release of the prisoners of war, Cannon said. He said the continued bombing and the presence of ground forces in Southeast Asia provide such a tool, he said. He said the United States can pressure the North Vietnamese to release the prisoners by using military force.

Cannon said he opposed amnesty. To grant amnesty to draft-dodgers would "undermine the basis of law," he said.

"We can't have a law if people can break it and think they will be forgiven the next day. Besides, no one who would denounce their country deserves recognition from it," he said.



Keith Scarborough... mans the McGovern booth.

Cannon said any draft-dodgers who want to return to this country should serve their jail sentences.

He said he favors eliminating the draft and organizing an all-volunteer army.

Humlicek also slammed Nixon's agricultural proposals: "It's obvious that Richard Nixon cares little about the farmer. He has never applied any specific proposals to help the plight of the farmer. In fact, Nixon lowered parity in 1968."

"George McGovern is very sensitive to the needs of the farmer. He's always been elected by the South Dakota farmers," she said.

Cannon said he was not well-versed on the problems of agriculture, but believes the economy would suffer under a McGovern administration. If the economy is ruined, he said, farmers would suffer as much as anyone else.



Cannon... no amnesty for draft dodgers.

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