

Choose and lose

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It is often said in election years that there isn't a nickel's worth of difference between the Democratic and Republican candidates.

In this year's Senate race in Nebraska, there isn't even a penny's worth.

On the Republican side of the ticket is Sen. Carl T. Curtis, veteran politico and staunch supporter of the Nixon administration. Throughout his overly-long stint on Capitol

Hill, as both senator and representative, Curtis has more than sufficiently demonstrated his expertise at helping big business, ignoring his constituency and especially in getting himself re-elected. He consistently has ignored the plight of the young, women, racial minorities and the poor. He has left the small farmer to rot, backed an upward-spiraling military budget and voted to retain big-business tax loopholes.

On the Democratic side, at least for now, is the ever-popular Terry Carpenter, veteran politico, Unicameral fat cat and sometime Democrat. Carpenter, a perennial enemy of UNL students, won a space on the Democratic ticket by beating four other contenders, any of whom probably would have been more attuned to the thoughts of Nebraska voters.

In the Unicameral, Carpenter has exhibited his persistence, ingenuity and mostly his resistance to constructive change. He also has displayed his vengeful nature by trying to cut off the student fees to the *Daily Nebraskan*, a frequent critic. His conservative stands in the Legislature have proven that the ultra-right can be just as insane as the ultra-left.

This duo leaves the voter with no choice. Curtis probably will win the election, simply because the Democrats have slit their own throats by choosing a man of only nominal support in the Democratic Party, especially one with such a limited appeal.

Admittedly, Curtis has the edge in both experience and in power-placement in the Senate. This could be used to help Nebraska, although that prospect is doubtful with Carl in the driver's seat. It is more likely his influence and power will be used to support big business, to the chagrin of his constituency.

So for that constituency, the choice is between Tweedledum and Tweedledee. And neither is adequate.

The most reasonable alternative, it seems, is not to vote for either, by leaving the senate ballot unmarked.

Or, even better, one could write in Mickey Mouse for senator. That, at least, would be honest.

Jim Gray

IF I WERE A CARPENTER,
AND YOU WERE A REPUBLICAN,
WOULD YOU VOTE FOR ME ANYWAY?



How to end the Thone Age

Roy Baldwin is a senior majoring in political science.

Well, it looks like Congressman Charles Thone has sewn up the crazy vote. I thoroughly enjoyed reading John Vihstadt's endorsement of the re-election of our congressman. I am a supporter of Rev. Darrel Berg, the Democratic candidate for Thone's job.

John's endorsement of Rev. Berg's opponent is good news to us because we know that any reasonable person, after reading John's comments on Ted Kennedy in the Oct. 4 *Daily Nebraskan* will realize that whoever John endorses for office will be the wrong guy.

But I don't want UNL students to vote for Rev. Berg just on John's advice. Let's give a few positive reasons.

guest
opinion

Let's first look at Thone's "record" in Congress. John says it's his strongest point. Thone says in his literature he has "from the very first urged accelerated withdrawals of American troops from Vietnam". From the "very first" day of October, maybe.

The fact is that our congressman voted no to every end-the-war amendment that came his way. The fact is that our congressman is bathed as deeply in innocent American and Asian blood as his boss, Richard Nixon.

Thone makes much of his anti-SST stand, but he has never fought to cut back our ever-expanding war budget.

Thone said in 1970 that "our farm families must have relief from the economic pressures they face". Yes indeed, but what's the record?

The record shows Thone failed to fight against the disastrous nomination of Earl Butz, failed to fight against the lifting of beef import quotas and didn't even try to get a seat on the House Agriculture Committee, where every farm state congressman should be.

These are three issues; there are many more. But I think my point is made. Let's look at personalities now.

And let's be blunt. Charles Thone started his political career as an office boy, and he hasn't changed. He got the nomination for Congress because of his employment under and loyalty to Roman Hruska, that fountainhead of mediocrity. If he wins his race in '72 he'll be first in line for Roman's seat whenever that old crook decides to step down.

Charley Thone is on the ground floor of what he hopes will be another generation of Republican dynasty in Nebraska. Unless we stop him now, there's no telling how long he'll be around.

Rev. Berg believes that junior executives like Thone have no business representing the needs and interests of the people of Nebraska. Rev. Berg has spent his life caring about people—in the ministry, in a myriad of community organizations and now in politics.

His message to the students at UNL is, don't be fooled by Charley Thone's "liberal" talk. Don't be fooled into voting for a guy that hasn't done a damn thing for you in two years and now doesn't even have the guts to come back to the state and face his opponent in open debate.

Let's elect a congressman for once who is sensitive to the needs of the people of Nebraska and who is courageous and independent enough to serve those needs. Let's put an end to "the Thone Age."

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