

Nixon worried, Berg charges

by Steve Arvanette

Darrel Berg, First Congressional District Democratic candidate, told a group of University students Wednesday night that America is "getting closer to peace" in Southeast Asia.

"Mr. Nixon may have a chance to pull it out before the election," Berg said before a small turn-out of 30 people in the Nebraska Union ballroom.

"I wonder if Mr. Nixon isn't a little bit worried about Watergate, the ITT scandal, and the wheat sale," Berg said.

He speculated Nixon was using an end to the Vietnam conflict as a "trump card" in the campaign.

"If peace comes I'll be the happiest person in Lincoln," Berg said. He added, however, that it would be "bittersweet."

Berg noted President Eisenhower needed only four months to end the Korean War but Nixon has taken four years.

"Mr. Nixon has yet to prove he intends to end the war," he said.

Concerning an end to the war, Berg said his opponent, incumbent Republican Charles Thone, has voted against seven amendments to end funding of the conflict.

"This isn't an isolated fanatical fringe of congressmen urging an end to the war," Berg said.

If elected, Berg said one of his first concerns as congressman would be tax reform.

"We already have the revenue available if we'd make some courageous attempts at closing loop holes," Berg said.

The Democratic candidate said he does not favor ending all 56 loop holes which cost the government \$66 billion in lost revenue annually.

However, he advocated closing eight "major loop holes" which would bring \$22 billion in added federal revenue.

Saying he is "really committed" to the concept of the family farm, Berg charged the Nixon administration with "administering last rights" to the family farm.

"If we destroy the atmosphere that has created them (family farms) we will take away these individuals' personalities," Berg said.



Democratic candidate Berg . . . "Mr. Nixon has yet to prove he intends to end the war."

During his campaigning through the 27-county eastern Nebraska district, Berg said he has found the state's small towns "eloquent and beautiful."

Berg said if elected, he would attempt to be placed on the 36-member House Agriculture Committee. He criticized Thone for not attempting to be placed on the committee.

Noting that the First District is listed as one of the nation's 31 agriculture districts, Berg said a Nebraska congressman has a "primary obligation" to serve on the agriculture committee.

Saying "it takes talent to vote against clean water," Berg criticized Thone for failing to support the Clean Water Act.

The 52-year-old Berg took a leave of absence seven months ago as a Methodist minister. He's described the differing jobs "like the difference between touch and tackle football."

Before the campaign, Berg said he was told it

would take \$80,000 to finance a campaign. So far, he says he's received nearly \$16,000 and "spent every dime of it."

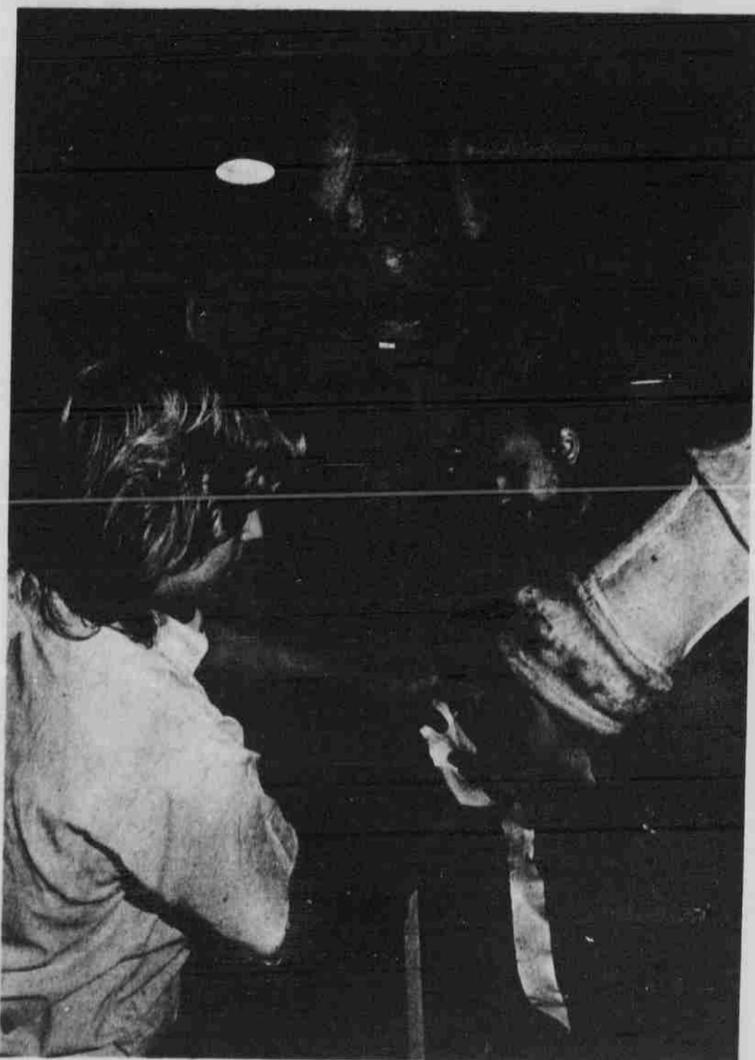
Berg speculated his opponent Thone will possibly spend three times as much money in his attempt at re-election.

Rather than the present form of campaign financing, Berg recommended a "public system of campaign finance" with each candidate receiving an equal sum of public funds at the start of the campaign.

"There are no two subjects more important to the welfare of the country than religion and politics," Berg said.

One reason people are hesitant to talk about politics Berg speculated is because they "sometimes feel guilty."

Terming it his own 11th commandment, Berg said, "No person is grown up until he's politically aware."



Jim Johnson and Dean Tschetter . . . prepare a statue that comes alive in "Don Giovanna."

'Giovanni'—teaching aid in UNL School of Music

by Carolyn Hull

A man sets out with the goal of conquering every woman (maiden or otherwise) in the world. To make sure he doesn't pursue the same woman twice, he has a friend keep a neat little list of them. That's the plot, and it's not a film running at a local movie house.

Instead, it's onstage next week at Kimball Recital Hall as the Opera Company presents Mozart's *Don Giovanni*, better known as the exploits of the legendary Don Juan.

Don Giovanni with music by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and libretto by Lorenzo da Ponte is a retelling of the Don Juan legend in the large "grand opera" style.

In places it's funny. Once the Don runs off to seduce another woman, leaving his manservant to calm the one he has just left. At a loss as to how to manage this, the manservant pulls out the list of conquests to assure her she is not the only woman the Don has betrayed. Instead, this enrages her even more.

It's tragic too. The Don is pulled into hell as the just reward for his antics. The blend of comedy and tragedy makes it what some call the most perfect opera ever written. Musicologists have a high opinion of both its dramatic and musical elements, according to Richard Grace, music and orchestra conductor.

Mozart's gift for writing a melody is one reason his operas are successful, Grace said. A singer is much more dependent on a well-written tune than an orchestra, Grace continued.

But, he added, this also makes Mozart's music more difficult to play and sing because mistakes are heard.

The production of *Don Giovanni* is only a small part of the opera training program in the UNL School of Music. The program, built by John Zei and Grace, begins by training the young singer. He starts in small roles and class scenes which give him experience singing roles onstage and expose him to as much opera as possible.

The educational aspect is considered in choosing the operas each season.

"This (*Don Giovanni*) is something the young singer can achieve. On the whole it doesn't put an exceptional strain on the male or female voice," Grace said. He said *Giovanni's* strong melody line helps beginning voices.

Both Grace and Zei emphasized that the opera also is for the audience. They said they hoped traditional misconceptions, such as statuesque ladies in horned Viking helmets, would not keep the students from attending.

"We want to give Mozart the absolute best to go with his well-done, sophisticated style of composing," said Zei, director.

"We're changing the drama to a more realistic style for those interested in the present day. The actions will flow as much as possible, getting out the static presentation of the action stopping while one character steps to the edge of the stage and sings an aria," Zei said.

Both hastened to add that all UNL

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