

## Back of the bus

It appears that Congressional spending directives are not the only measures going unenforced by the Nixon Administration. In a report released this weekend, the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights cited a lack of presidential leadership as the primary reason that the federal government's enforcement of its own civil rights laws has slowed to what the commission called "a snail's pace."

In his recent State of the Union message, President Nixon stated that his policies "represent a pragmatic rededication to social compassion and national excellence." Contrasting with that declaration is the civil rights commission's evaluation: "Federal civil rights enforcement lacks creativity, resources, a sense of urgency, a firmness in dealing with violators and—most important—a sense of commitment."

The report complained of various governmental civil rights inadequacies; among them:

- there is currently no full time civil rights staff in the Office of Management and Budget, which oversees all federal agencies;
- removal of the threat to withhold funds has made the Department of Health, Education and Welfare's school compliance program ineffective;

—some private schools where discrimination exists still receive tax-exempt status because of the Internal Revenue Service's relaxed enforcement of federal guidelines;

In the address that marked his second inauguration, President Nixon promised that the shift to new policies would "not be a retreat from our responsibilities, but a better way to progress . . . And I pledge to you that where government should act, we will act boldly and we will lead boldly." Historically civil rights issues have made up one of those areas where "government should act."

If the report of the Commission on Civil Rights is given any credence whatever, it becomes obvious that the President has been less than bold in this area. Regrettably, civil rights enforcement has become another of those matters relegated to the crowded seats in the rear of the Nixon bus for the long trip through the next four years.

## Budget casualties

President Nixon, who recently revealed a \$268 million "no fat" budget request, has become his own chief lobbyist in a drive to cut federal spending for what he believes are ill-advised or irresponsible programs. And, somewhat ironically, the man who just a few weeks ago admonished Americans to be proud

of the 2.5 million U.S. soldiers who served in Vietnam, has now initiated moves which, if successful, would severely decrease government benefits currently given to disabled Vietnam-era veterans.

A proposal drafted by the Veterans Administration and currently being considered by the House Veterans Affairs Committee would cut payments to the soldiers maimed in Vietnam by approximately \$160 million a year. The nearly 335,000 disabled Vietnam veterans become the primary victims of the budgetary cutbacks because their injuries were suffered recently enough so as not to be covered by a law which forbids a reduction in a disability rating that has been held for 20 years or more.

In the cold language of fiscal mathematics, the new plan would reduce the loss of a leg from a 90 per cent to a 40 per cent disability rating. Such a crippled veteran could see government benefits for his family cut from approximately \$6700 to around \$1300 a year.

For a man or woman who cannot work, President Nixon's recent call for a national reliance upon hard work is little more than a reminder of their own disability. A soldier who is victimized by both the war and budget battles may find "peace with honor" a rather elusive concept and life with dignity unachievable.

Tom Lansworth



## to the editor

Dear editor:

If you're like most students these days, you're probably interested in getting as much out of your educational dollar as possible. I think I've finally discovered a way to make that money stretch, though. I must give credit to ASUN and the University Child Care Centers, for without the inspiration they provided last Wednesday, I doubt this plan would ever have been conceived.

The point was brought home to us earlier this month in a letter (Daily Nebraskan, Feb. 5) from a Ms. Cromer, that she, as well as all of us who attend this noble institution, pays \$50 each semester in student fees. These fees are used to provide the student with certain services, like the Daily Nebraskan, University Health Center, and last, but not least, ASUN. Whether or not every penny of this fee money is put to good use is really not our concern. It's a form of school tax that everybody has to pay, each one an equal share. What we are concerned with is just how many more services we can get for that equal investment, even if it's at the expense of our fellow students.

Since ASUN is the student's voice, it seems reasonable to start there in looking for a solution. During Wednesday's meeting, a figure of 43 cents was cited as the amount ASUN gets from each student per semester to use solely on student programs that serve all of the students' interests. Out of that 43 cents, ASUN has budgeted about \$6,500 to campus organizations, or a return of 31 cents (a 12-cent loss, but red tape isn't free).

A 31 cent return also assumes that all the organizations funded can serve all the students. Now if you want to increase your personal return, that's where a nifty little group like the Day Care Center

comes in. You see, they, and it would seem ASUN, assume the less students you serve, the more money you are entitled to. If their request for the additional \$702 is granted, their investment of 43 cents will bring the 76 students served by the Day Care Center a \$22.40 return, or an increase of 5,209 per cent. Not bad, but if you're like me, and don't have a little darling, and can't borrow one either, how can you cash in on this gold mine? Well, if ASUN figures that the fewer you serve, the more you need, simply form your own organization, serve only your own interests, and you should be granted a yearly budget of \$1,166.82. Still, ASUN only has \$6,500 to work with, so they can only aid six students in this manner, and if you want a slice of the pie, you had better be quick.

Now if you are slow, and aren't among the first six, there's two things you can do. You can wait till next year, and hope that you'll get there first, or you can give a call to your ASUN senators, and tell them you only want your fee money spent on projects that serve the interests of all the students. I prefer the latter, but then, I probably won't be one of the first six students to make the request. If you aren't either, why not give your senator a call? It's your money.

### Tuition proposal

Name withheld by request

Dear editor:

Two meetings ago ASUN passed and sent to the administration a resolution that could have positive, far-reaching consequences on the UNL campus. Jagan Kaul's proposal was to treat foreign students at par with in-state students with respect to tuition rates. Using the University of Texas' experience as a guide, we could expect two major benefits.

After an initial drop in tuition revenues received from foreign students, Texas then experienced an increase in revenues when many more foreigners were attracted to its campus to pursue their studies. Secondly, the increased number of non-U.S. students on campus resulted in much greater exposure to new ideas and diverse culture to the native Texans.

If interested students and faculty will work energetically to follow this bill through, UNL could benefit in the same way Texas did. In the long run it would cost the University no extra money to effect this positive addition to UNL's educational and living environment.

### ASUN revisited

Ken Cobb

Dear editor:

The letter by David McClymont (Daily Nebraskan, Feb. 8) in response to a letter co-authored by Joe McCarty and Scott Cooper begins by proclaiming their lack of insight into the ASUN situation. Fortunately, for the reader, McClymont does give us an insight: that of the utter incompetency and self-deception of himself and the present ASUN administration.

McClymont uses the low 25 per cent voting turnout for last year's ASUN elections and what he sees as student apathy to explain away the overall administrative bankruptcy on the part of ASUN.

One should ask, "Why all these excuses, paid ads, etc.?" Has ASUN decided that if it worked for the Nixon administration (on Watergate, grain deal, et. al.) that it will work for ASUN?

Can't ASUN and McClymont accept the likelihood

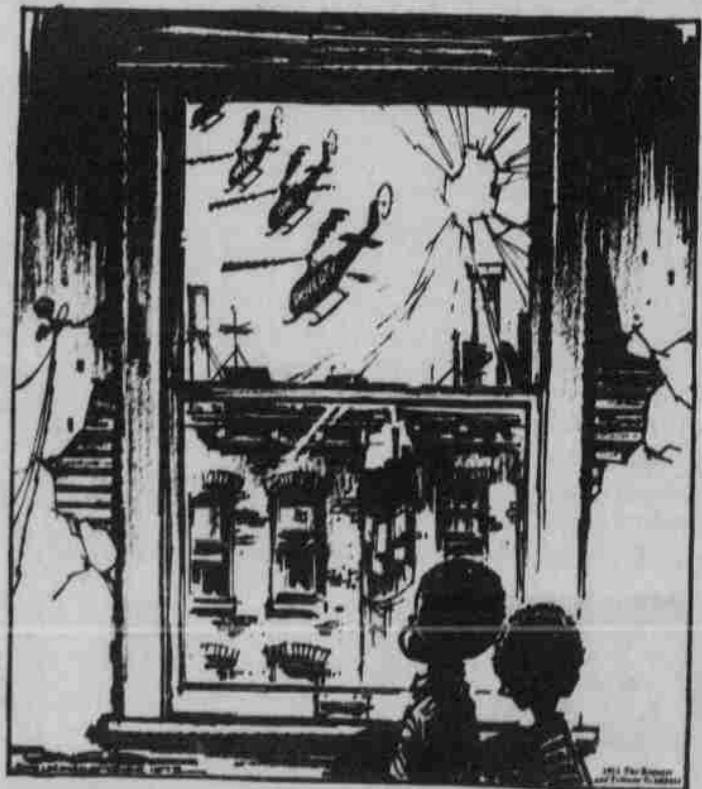
of a low turnout as fact and work from there? Previous ASUN administrations have been quite capable of operating under such a condition. Most, in fact, with less than a 20 per cent turnout.

If ASUN personnel cannot operate effectively under these conditions, then perhaps they should resign and let a more competent and more representative group take their place. We should not be playing little political games with our student government.

Editorials by Bruce Beecher claiming credit for actions of previous administrations, other organizations and events that just happened to occur during his term in office should not and will not satisfy those of us who expect true competence in our student government.

Having attended this University for four years now, I will unreservedly state that the present ASUN administration has done the least for the University of Nebraska and its students of any I have known. Let's throw the rascals out.

Robert L. Brehm



Another U.S. Withdrawal

### MUN

Dear editor:

Model United Nations (MUN) has always been a good exercise for students who wish to study other nations and parliamentary procedure in a model session. This year I have been involved through a group of students in the Centennial Education Program who were delegates. I am proud of them for their excellent performance: they received two of the nine best delegations awards for Panama and Somalia, and four of the 12 best delegate awards at the session (Rita Kumm, Britt Miller, Paul Jones and Jack Mason). These students and others who were involved now want to continue their efforts by going to other MUNs. I sincerely hope that the University will support and encourage this in the future.

Robin West



This Administration is Bullish on America.