

Carpenter attacks tuition increases

by Tim Anderson

Although he was not scheduled to speak, Sen. Terry Carpenter Tuesday blasted proposed tuition increases for NU students in Gov. J. J. Exon's University budget.

Testifying before the Appropriations Committee in the legislature, Carpenter said tuition had been repeatedly increased and that "the time has come for it to stop."

Exon's budget calls for students to pay \$18 per credit hour for resident tuition, and \$48.25 for non-resident tuition. The regents had recommended the figures be \$17 and \$46. Both plans eliminate the present free zone; tuition for 13 to 16 hours is the same as tuition for 12 hours.

Carpenter said that by constantly raising tuition, "We are creating a caste system. The people who already have the education are not interested in letting everyone have it."

"Raising these students' tuition is just a way of sidestepping your responsibility," Carpenter told the committee. "This has been going on as long as I've been here and it must stop."

Calling on the committee to do "a great thing for the people of the state," Carpenter suggested proposing a Constitutional amendment so that the issue of tuition increases could go to the voters.

"We've been heading in the wrong direction," Carpenter said. "Instead of raising tuition, we should be lowering it."

The Scottsbluff senator told the committee that if it was necessary to raise taxes in order to lower tuition, "let's have

the guts to do it."

"We send our kids to grade school and to high school and then we just drop it," Carpenter said.

Adding that there was "something more important than dollars involved in the decision," the senator said young people who were denied four years of higher education "were not going anywhere."

Although the committee took no action on Exon's proposal, it heard testimony from NU President D.B. Varner, Vice President Howard Neville, the three chancellors, and interested instructors, civic leaders and students, supporting the regents' recommendations rather than Exon's.

Exon's \$91.4 million proposed NU budget is \$2.7 million less than the regents' request. By campus, the governor's recommendations are: \$50.6 million for UNL, \$1.2 million less than requested; \$13.7 million for UNO, \$375,000 less than requested; and \$22.9 million for the NU Medical Center, \$1.1 million less than requested.

Of special concern, according to Varner, was the 3.5 per cent salary increase for NU instructors. The regents had budgeted a 5.5 per cent increase.

Varner also voiced concern over the \$190,000 requested to equalize fringe benefits for NU's faculty. Gov. Exon reduced the figure to \$129,358, and the one per cent increase requested in the state's contribution to the instructor's retirement fund, was cut completely.

Discrimination board resurrected after 3 years

by Jane Owens

A proposed, two-step process has been resurrected for investigating discrimination complaints, according to a Council on Student Life (CSL) recommendation.

If established, as recommended last month by CSL, a Committee on Equality and Judicial Board on Equality would investigate charges of "limitation of access to participation in education, social, cultural or other activities of the University (UNL)."

Discrimination also would be prohibited in housing "supplied or regulated by the University for students and staff, including fraternities and sororities," unless based on distinctions between the sexes.

UNL Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs Ken Bader said that although he has studied the proposal, he has not had time to submit his recommendations. The discrimination proposal and Bader's recommendations probably will be sent to UNL Chancellor James Zumberge this week, according to the vice chancellor.

Zumberge probably could implement recommendations made in the discrimination proposal without taking the matter to the Board of Regents, Bader added.

The establishment of a Committee on Equality and Judicial Board on Equality initially was recommended in a 1970 Report on Racial Discrimination, prepared by John Robinson, former CSL chairman.

Robinson was asked to prepare the report during the 1969-70 school year by Chancellor D.B. Varner.

According to the 1970 report, "racial prejudice is common among students at the University."

Robinson, in the report, said that "on the basis of a combination of objective and subjective evidence, six (Greek) organizations which currently discriminate racially, and fifteen which may do so."

One of Robinson's recommendations called for the establishment of a Committee on Equality and Judicial Board on Equality "for the continuous survey of the racial situation at the University, and for the speedy rectification of instances of racial discrimination wherever they occur."

Does discrimination continue to exist among UNL social organizations?

"I really have no means of knowing," Robinson said. Since the report was published, Robinson has become chairman of the UNL English department and no longer serves as CSL chairman.

"After the report was released, I got the impression that social organizations did want to do something (to eliminate discrimination)," he said. "There are a lot of well-intentioned people in those organizations, but I don't know what the current (discrimination) situation is."

In the 1970 report, Robinson identified five fraternities and one sorority as not accepting black members. He suggested that the Board of Regents request Greek houses to "actively seek out members of minority groups" and "severely reprimand" the six Greek houses.

The houses were Alpha Gamma Rho, Kappa Sigma, Phi Gamma Delta, Phi Kappa Psi, and Sigma Nu fraternities and Kappa Delta sorority.

In addition, the Robinson Report suggested suspending the Kappa Delta charter, unless the chapter secured a statement from national officers allowing freedom to the local chapter in member selection.

"I don't think Kappa Delta has changed (it's membership selection policies)," Robinson said. "Nor do I think the situation has changed from the other side. There's not any greater number of blacks trying to get into sororities and fraternities."

Jan Piccolo, president of UNL's Kappa Delta chapter, refused to comment when asked if a non-discrimination pledge was secured from national officers or if the organization's constitution had been changed since the Robinson Report.

Piccolo also refused to comment on how many minority members the sorority has or how many votes are necessary to exclude potential members.

In his 1970 report, Robinson said that one negative vote was sufficient to keep a potential member from joining Kappa Delta.

Will the proposed Committee on Equality and Judicial Board on Equality reduce discrimination among campus social organizations?

"It depends a lot on who uses the process. Some minority members are so disenchanted they don't even bother with social organizations," Robinson said.

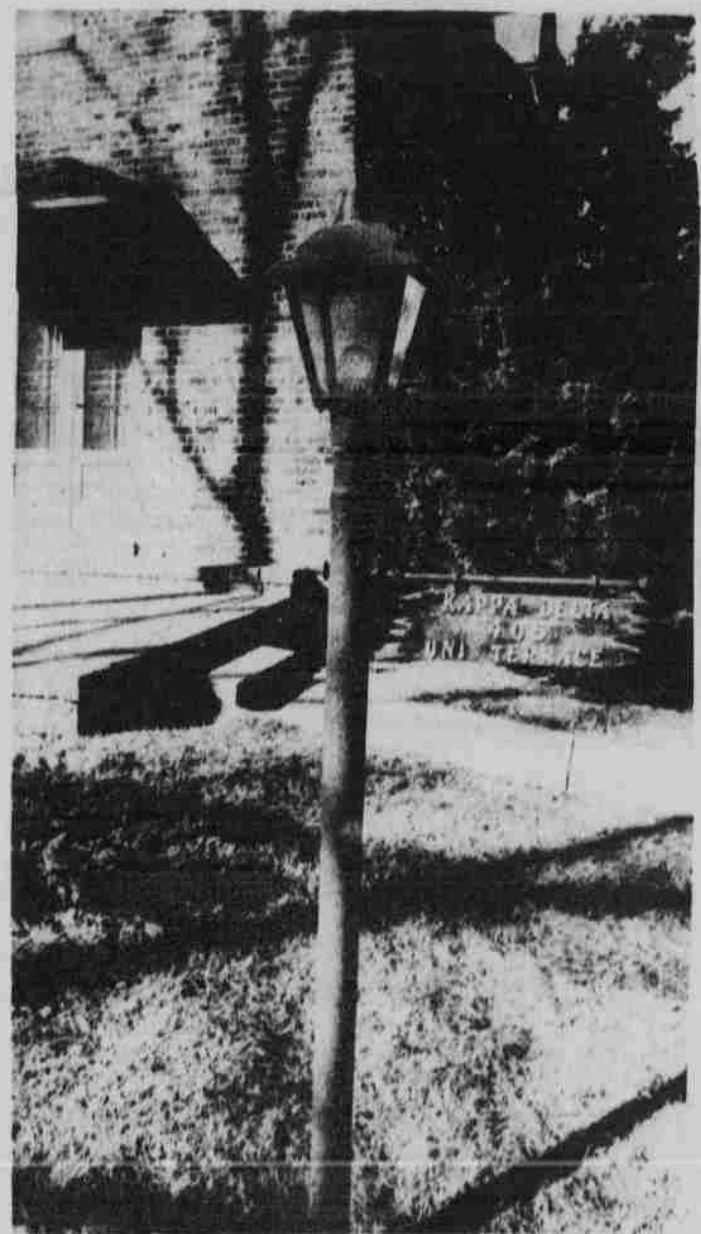
"If people with such complaints would go to the (proposed) committee, hopefully the problem would be investigated. If the complaint was a legitimate one, the chancellor would be asked to do something about it," he added.

No discrimination exists in Greek organizations, according to Jayne Anderson, coordinator of Greek and cooperative organizations.

"To the best of my knowledge, there are no black members in fraternities or sororities, except Kappa

Alpha Psi," she added, "but I understand that there may be Mexican-Americans and American Indians (belonging to Greek houses)."

"It appears that (UNL) sororities and fraternities would welcome minority members," Anderson said. "If they have a concern, it is to provide for that



Kappa Delta . . . no comment on racial policies, according to Jan Piccolo, KD president.

student as a person, in the best way possible."

CSL Chairman Don Shaneyfelt said he is uncertain how much discrimination exists within campus social organizations.

According to the CSL chairman, implementation of the Robinson Report recommendations was delayed when former UNL president Joseph Soshnik resigned in 1971 and administrative offices were reorganized.

"It's taken a while to get the proposal (for a Committee on Equality and Judicial Board on Equality) started, but I think it's on the road now," Shaneyfelt said. "If used properly, this process could be very effective in any area where students are involved with discrimination."

"But there must be someone who raises the problem before an agency can take much action," he said. "If you don't receive any complaints, you can never deal with the problem."



Three years ago . . . John Robinson, former CSL chairman, submitted the UNL Report on Racial Discrimination.