

## Improper proposal

It appears that the same persons who gave us leaders such as Roman Hruska and J.J. Exon are preparing to swindle Nebraskans with more bunk. Leaders of the Republican and Democratic parties recently have called for tax-supported campaigns, and it is understandable how they might believe such a measure is necessary.

The disclosure of the financing of the Committee to Re-elect the President was alarming. The committee had a war chest of \$50 million. Of that, \$6 million came from 27 contributors.

It is true that some sort of steps must be taken to stop these massive contributions and the hefty political influence that goes with them, but tax-supported campaigns are not the way. In fact, such a solution might create more problems than it would solve.

Most tax-supported campaign proposals touted thus far have disallowed donations from groups or individuals. If such a plan were adopted, it would be a violation of First Amendment rights to be forced, through taxes, to pay for someone's campaign.

Another difficulty inherent in such a plan is what to do with minority candidates.

The entire plan is half-baked. If party leaders seriously favor tax-supported campaigns, they ought to present well thought-out plans.

Perhaps a more reasonable solution would be limiting individual contributions to each candidate to not more than \$1,000 per person. Coupled with this stipulation would be a law demanding disclosure of all contributions of more than \$500.

But no matter what solution is found, it should not involve dipping into the public till.

## Love Library—22

It's starting to sound a little like *Catch-22*. The warning sign on the walkway beneath the construction north of Love Library has been taken down. But the danger still exists according to construction workers. The UNL Physical Plant had the sign removed. It seems as if someone is thinking "if we take down the danger sign, the danger no longer exists."

This is the same kind of reasoning which gave us "walking beneath the construction is only as dangerous as falling on a sidewalk." That statement was contradicted by a construction foreman who said that tools or concrete molds might fall on the walkway and injure students walking beneath the three-quarter inch thick plywood canopy. This sounds suspiciously like someone is trying to take the easy way out. UNL officials ought to find out what the actual danger is. If the corridor is safe, it should be left open. If it is not, it should be closed.

But one question remains: why wasn't the walkway checked before school started? Perhaps because it would have meant greater expense to the library since it would have had to hire additional checkers to man the south doors. If that is the reason, and if the walkway is proved to be dangerous, then there is something wrong with administrative priorities.

But if the walkway is found to be safe, then something still is wrong. Why did it take so long to have it inspected? Slipshod management seems to be the answer.

Michael (O.J.) Nelson

## Radio broadcasts promote, improve global relations

The U.S. Senate last week, in one of its few (and steadily less frequent) moments of rational action, finally approved a \$50.2 million funding level for Radio Free Europe (RFE) and Radio Liberty (RL) in fiscal year 1974. At the same time, it admirably defeated an amendment by Arkansas Democrat J. William Halbright (sic) to reduce the U.S. federal contribution to 50 per cent of the radios' operational expenses.

These two votes, by margins of 76-10 and 56-29 respectively, represent a stunning, if not unexpected, victory for the causes of global detente and freedom of thought and expression. Fortunately, there is every reason to hope that the House soon will ratify the Senate's wisdom on this critical issue.

The chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and others who would kill RFE and RL are guilty of peddling two erroneous claims—first, that the two radios are a financial drain on the U.S.; and second, that the broadcasts are of dubious value in today's world and contribute to an atmosphere of international suspicion and mistrust.

john vinstadt  
different drummer

The \$50.2 million figure does not provide for any increase in present goods, personnel or new equipment but merely would maintain operations at current levels. While this amount is 20% higher than fiscal year 1973 funding, the increase is needed simply to meet the increased costs caused by the dollar devaluation, to cover normal wage and price increases and to maintain present equipment and facilities.

In a relative sense, too, the radios are inexpensive, when we consider that the U.S. is spending \$80 billion yearly on national security. Broadcast costs amount to a mere one-third of 1 per cent of other American expenses in Europe, and total radio costs are

equivalent to the price of only 10 equipped Phantom jets (an article we regularly sell to Israel with hardly a protest).

**The charge that the radios are a reactionary residue from 20 years ago and are no longer valuable also is without foundation. Admittedly, the broadcasts contained dangerously inflammatory material during the heyday of Secretary of State John Foster Dulles and his "liberation" concepts.**

This, however, has been stamped out, and the broadcasts consist solely of factual news matters. RFE and RL are not agents of the U.S. government (unlike the Voice of America) and are run independently separately and distinctly from the State Department or the C.I.A.

East-West relations have improved significantly in the years since these stations have been operating and have caused at least a slight measure of political liberalization in the targeted Soviet bloc countries. Even Communist leaders are influenced by public opinion at home—that is why they wish to control information reaching their peoples.

The *Washington Post*, traditionally not one of my favorite newspapers, summed it up correctly when it commented: "Detente, if it means anything, means widening the West's contacts with the East, not helping the East seal off its people from the West. It means the exchange of people, goods, words, and ideas. This is the essential business of RFE and RL."

Intellectual writers within the Soviet Union are demanding more freedom of expression. We must heed the anguished cries for help from men like Solzhenitsyn and Sakharov by continuing the broadcasts and not ignore them.

Writer David Halberstam, (*The Best and the Brightest*) who usually has few good things to say about American foreign policy, has spoken out eloquently on behalf of the radios: "In no way is it part of the real excesses of the Cold War, for its validity comes from only one factor—that it contains the truth. To judge it as part of the Cold War is to find the broadcaster as guilty as the jammer."

"The one thing that can extinguish Radio Free Europe and quickly rob it of its validity is for these [Communist] societies themselves to open up real channels of free expression. . . . Most East Europeans long for RFE to be phased out—but by Radio Warsaw, Radio Budapest, and Radio Prague becoming real and viable radio stations."

"BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO HAVE NOT HEARD, BUT STILL BELIEVE ME!"



ARAB NATIONS THREATEN OIL FLOW CUTBACK IF U.S. MIDEAST POLICY IS NOT CHANGED. —NEWS ITEM

