

Legal duty

Truth in advertising laws have been passed to assure that the public isn't told a product is one thing when it is actually something else. So far, this law hasn't been applied to politicians, although it should be. If it were a good place to start would be ASUN.

The product is the students' lawyer. Ann Henry and her running mates who were elected last spring to ASUN positions used the legal aid program as one of the most important planks in their platform. Henry and company have been fairly successful thus far in implementing the proposal. All that remains before it can be put into high gear is appointment of the attorneys.

The idea is a good one. Legal advice is something most students are in need of some time or other during their college careers. But the program appears headed for misuse because of a resolution adopted last week at the ASUN Senate meeting.

The resolution calls for a study of the politicians, although it should be. If it were, a for students. Such a program is needed, now that students arrested by city police no longer are released to the custody of UNL Campus Security and Traffic.

The problem with the resolution, which calls for studying the possibility of setting up such a system, is that the students' lawyer is charged with making the study and reporting back to the senate.

It is not the job of the lawyer to do such



work, according to the proposal that set up the Legal Aid to Students Office. The proposal says the attorney's duties are to counsel students on legal problems they might be facing and to operate and manage his office in an efficient manner.

Some might say the lawyer would serve students by providing legal advice regarding the establishment of the proposed bail-bond system. This is true. However, when the

program was announced, students were told by Henry and her political allies that the lawyer would counsel students, not draw up proposals. Such a proposal could be drawn up by the senate or an ASUN committee using knowledgeable community members and advice from the students' attorney.

Furthermore, using the students' lawyer to make studies is in conflict with another section of the original proposal. That section reads: "The students' attorney may not agree to perform any functions which will in any way detract from or impede the performance of his regular duties and responsibilities as students' attorney."

To spend part of his time making the requested study would "impede the performance of his regular duties." Those regular duties are to counsel and advise students.

The senate must act immediately to rescind the proposal passed last week. A bail bond system is needed, but the duties of the lawyer are outlined clearly — and making studies is not one of them. For ASUN to use the attorney in this way is to make a mockery of its own proposal. The lawyer was proposed as a way to give students free legal advice. It should be used for that.

Michael (O.J.) Nelson

Americans betrayed by Agnew

Our country is better off without Spiro Agnew. To an already scandal-ridden administration his unethical and illegal conduct has brought further disgrace.

During the campaigns of 1966, 1970 and 1972 the vice president barnstormed the country, presenting himself as a pious apostle of purity. He was the self-proclaimed spokesperson for the highest personal and moral morality. Yet even as he uttered these verbose announcements, he was the beneficiary of cash payoffs and promising loans.

A few weeks ago, he declared his innocence and said he was the hapless victim of a frame-up launched by his own administration's Justice Dept. Then on Oct. 10 he abruptly resigned and, in exchange for the mildest of sentences (a \$10,000 fine and 3 years probation), pleaded no contest—a virtual admission of guilt—to a charge of income tax evasion.

According to a 40-page Justice Dept. statement of evidence, U.S. Atty. James Thompson (a Republican, mind you) called the Agnew findings the strongest case for bribery, extortion, conspiracy and tax fraud that he's seen in 15 years.

Atty. Gen. Elliot Richardson said the investigation of kickbacks "establishes a pattern of substantial cash payments to the defendant (Agnew) during the period when he served as governor of Maryland in return for engineering contracts with the state of Maryland." Indeed, payments from one large company continued into 1971, when Agnew still was vice president.

This man has betrayed the President, his duty, his office and worst of all, the American people who once looked to him their confidence as the second highest office in the land.

Permissiveness and cowardly judges who capitulated to the criminal were favorite targets of Agnew. Yet it is unlikely that we will hear him protest the relatively lenient treatment given him by the law so far.

All this is not to say that the perjury Agnew espoused are invalid. They are not. The tragedy is that the former vice



president never learned to apply to himself the real virtues he sought in others.

Meanwhile, we should be able to expect better things from Rep. Gerald Ford (R-Mich), whom the President has recommended to the Congress to succeed Agnew. A 25-year veteran of the House and Republican minority leader since 1965, Ford is a man whose absolute integrity, national stature and numerous qualifications will bring renewed luster to the tarnished office which he now seeks.

By selecting a person who has no presidential ambitions of his own (and who widely was thought to be contemplating retirement in 1976, anyway), the President has assured a free and open 1976 Republican convention.

Further, the Michigan moderate's background cannot help, but bring the administration and Congress closer together. A fresh spirit of cooperation and compromise could result.

Ford is immensely popular, both in his two counties in Grand Rapids (his reelection margin has never dipped below 61 per cent) and on Capitol Hill. Even Sen. Hubert Humphrey (D-Minn) remarked that Ford would "serve the nation well." Maine Democrat Edmund Muskie (sic) admitted "I think he's a good man." House Speaker Carl Albert (D-Okla), who acted as de facto vice president for two days, declared Ford was "my choice." Governor J.J. Exon says that he approves, too.

Predictably, however, one Democrat did not care for Nixon's selection. Barked Nebraska Democratic National Committeewoman Frances Ohmstede of Guide Rock: "I don't know much about Ford except that he's not everything the President does." Maybe she was anticipating to be tapped for the honor herself?

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