

## Don't buy Farah pants

The Farah pants boycott has been so successful, at least in areas outside Lincoln, that it's backfired.

By 1971, Farah Manufacturing Co. President Willie Farah, son of a Lebanese dry goods merchant, had steered his father's business to record sales of \$164 million and a \$6 million profit that year. In contrast, 1973 sales were \$132 million, with miniscule profits of \$43,000. Additionally, the price of the company's stock has sunk to \$5 a share, down from \$30 before the strike.

Based in El Paso, Farah has been described as the world's largest manufacturer of men's slacks. But for 20 months the company has been sparring with about 2,000 strikers, who demand to be represented by the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America. Most of the strikers are Mexican-American. Their pay range reportedly is \$1.80 to \$2.25 an hour, considered low for factory work. The public was asked to show its support of the strikers by boycotting the Farah product.

Since the boycott is imposing a financial squeeze on the Farah Co., perhaps it may be considered effective.

However, it has backfired in that four of nine plants have been closed, and five El Paso plants are operating with a reduced work force. Accordingly, effects of the boycott are being felt in the pockets of newly laid-off, low-income workers.

In the effort to boycott the Farah products, Lincoln once again is dragging its feet. The pants still are piled on shelves at stores such as Magee's, Miller

& Paine and Brandeis, and a Farah sales representative last autumn reported that Farah sales in Lincoln stores had not been affected.

Last week an administrative law judge of the National Labor Relations Board ruled that Farah is "flouting the (National Labor Relations) act and trampling on the rights of its employees as if there was no act, no board and no Ten Commandments."

The issue does not promise to be resolved for some time. Meanwhile, don't buy Farah slacks.

Mary Voboril

## Well, it's only a paper recession

The President has flatly predicted there will be no recession this year. Doesn't he ever have any good news for us?

Instead of a recession, he's promised to do his very best to give us another record year of inflation. This shows how seriously the President has misjudged the public mood. What the public wants is good, decent, solid Depression.

The public is tired of inflation. The only people who still enjoy it are housewives.

"Do you know what that lamb chop cost?" housewives keep asking their weary husbands as they sit down to dinner. "Guess! Just guess!"

"A dollar?" says the husband, trying to remember what the last lamb chop he had 12 months ago cost.

"Hah, \$1.98!" cried the housewife triumphantly. "See? You've no idea what prices are like these days."

But the happiness of housewives is certainly not worth continued inflation. Sure, we'll all have more money to buy the things we can no longer afford. But what we really want is to be able to afford all the things we no longer have the money to buy. It's a question of bargains.

With a good solid Depression going, even housewives would be happy. "A dollar?" guesses the weary husband, staring at his annual lamb chop.

## arthur hoppe innocent bystander

"Hah, I got it for only 32 cents!" cries the housewife triumphantly.

She's happy. He's happy. Bargains make everybody happy.

With a good solid Depression going, your 1974 dollar would be worth at least two dollars. This would not only restore confidence in the dollar and ease our balance of payments problem, but it would eliminate poverty. Even a family of four earning \$3,200 a year would be well off.

The ecological benefits would be enormous. It's a well-known fact that Depressions produce less garbage, fewer babies and a sharp reduction in industrial wastes. And what could better lick the energy crisis and clean up the air than the 2-family car?

Sociologically, a Depression is desperately needed to restore togetherness in the American family. A Depression will give our aimless, drifting youth something to do—like looking for a job.

Moreover, it will provide them with a subject to talk to their own children about when they grow up, such as, "When I was your age, my allowance was only ..." And what else is there to talk to children about?

More important, there's no end to inflation. Prices keep going up forever. But—ah!—if prices only dropped 7 per cent a year instead, we could look forward to the happy day when everything is free and we're all living on easy street.

So to restore public morale, it behooves the President to re-address the nation. "Depression," he should say, "is just around the corner! I pledge two chickens in every garage and ..."

Hold it! I've just been looking at what we economists call the economic indicators. Unemployment's up, car sales are down, the stock market is confused and soaring oil prices threaten to bankrupt every industrialized nation.

I think the President just said that about no recession so we wouldn't get our hopes up.

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## to the editor

Dear editor,

I am a senior at the University of Nebraska and have never felt an immense desire or need to publicly praise a campus student organization.

I realize the fault is mine, but I do wish to make amends and express congratulations for one job well done.

The organization is the Nebraska Union Art Lending Library. For once we have a

nonripoff group of people who are working hard to bring a little class and beauty to the students (mostly poor like me.)

I mainly want to express my appreciation for a job well done and especially commend Rae Jean Lewandowski on her efforts and all those who work with her.

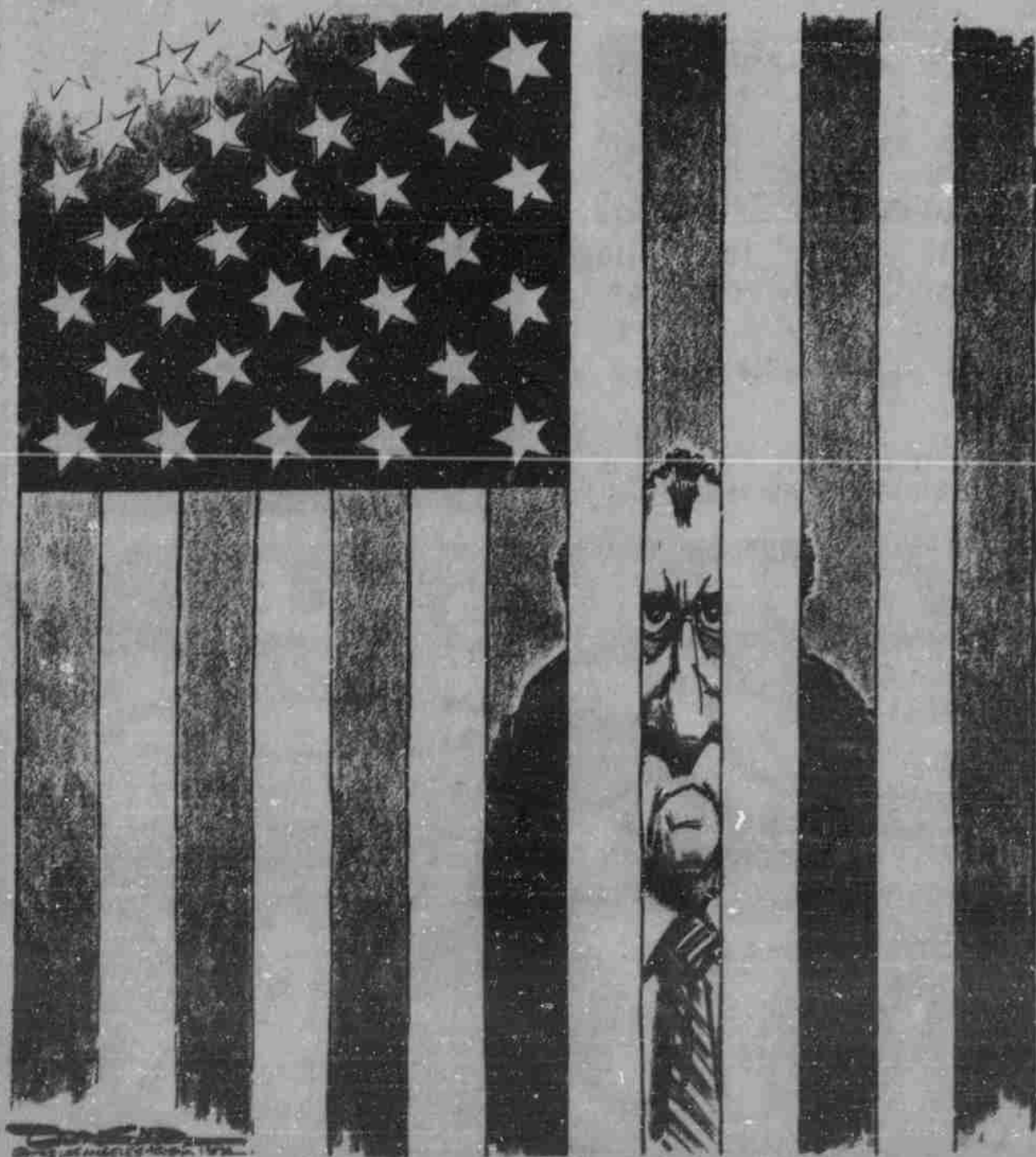
Lynn M. Purdy

Dear editor,

The front-page cartoon of Hitler (Daily Nebraskan, Jan. 31) displayed not only a lack of good taste but also a lack of any sense of humor.

I suggest that the cartoon only mirrors the overall quality of your publication: poor.

Jim Crounse



State of the Union

## daily nebraskan

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