

## Panel: energy crisis real



Prof. Milton Russell

The three speakers at the UNL convocation, "Energy Crisis—Real or Contrived" agreed the energy crisis is real, and according to one, the worst is just around the corner.

"The next two or three years will be the hardest," said Milton Russell, professor of economics at Southern Illinois University.

"The increase in energy demand must fall," he said. "That will mean we drive less miles, we keep our houses colder . . . we produce less as a nation, and more of us go unemployed."

Russell was joined on the panel by Willis G. Meyer, a consulting geologist at Dallas, Tex., and James R. Newman, acting regional administrator of the Federal Energy Regional Office, Kansas City, Mo.

The 3-man panel gave their views on whether there is really an energy crisis, and what might be done about it, to an audience of about 175 people in the Nebraska Union Ballroom Tuesday.

Russell said the energy crisis, "is both real and contrived." He blamed government mismanagement in handling a real energy shortage. But, he added, "crisis is much too strong a word to use."

He listed nine conditions that have produced the shortage. Among them were the failure of nuclear power to take on the energy load it was predicted to take, a "continued American love affair with the automobile," increased energy uses by countries other than the United States and no technological breakthroughs in new energy sources.

While listing the increased costs of importing petroleum products and the Arab oil embargo as factors contributing to the shortage, he termed them as only having short term effects.

He said the U.S. government was making mistakes in dealing with the shortage, including an energy self-sufficiency program, called "Project Independence" by President Nixon.

The project's aim is for the U.S. to be self-sufficient in energy needs by 1980. According to Russell, that might be a costly mistake.

He said the cost of imported Arab oil has risen to about \$7 a barrel, but the rise is only the effect of the willingness of oil-exporting countries to pay the price at the beginning of the shortage.

He said that as oil-exporting countries adjust to the shortage, they would not pay the cost, and the price of Arab oil would fall to \$2 a barrel.

The cost of technology and exploration in developing the United States' own petroleum resources to be self-sufficient would result in American oil costing \$7 a barrel, Russel said.

He also advocated allowing petroleum prices to float according to supply and demand. The price would rise to the point that people would not drive because they could not afford it, he said.

"It will not be necessary for Nixon to convince people that lower temperatures are good for their health. The lower temperatures will be good for their pocketbooks," Russel said.

Petroleum prices currently are controlled by the federal government as a part of the wage-and-price control program.

Meyer said man must develop a "new man-earth ethic." Noting that energy consumption rates have overtaken energy production rates, he said developing the new ethic means man must conserve energy.

He listed energy sources such as wind, nuclear fission and fusion, high-sulfur coal, and solar energy as possible solutions to the energy shortage; but, he said, these will not be adequate to solve energy shortages.

The convocation was a part of Charter Week at UNL. It was sponsored by the departments of geology and agricultural economics, the University Convocations Committee, The Water Resources Research Institute and the department of public relations.

## Alcohol, regent bills advance

The Legislature cast a favorable glance toward students Tuesday by advancing both the student regent bill and the bill which would allow the sale and consumption of alcohol on campus.

With no discussion and a 35-9 vote, the legislators voted in favor of placing three students on the NU Board of Regents.

The bill, LB323, now will be placed on the November ballot for final approval, according to Mark Hoeger, ASUN first vice president. The passage of the bill is significant, he said, because "this is the first bill that has been initiated, drafted and put through by students."

LB783, the bill to permit alcohol on campus, was advanced to the floor of the Legislature by a 5-0 vote of the Miscellaneous Subjects Committee.

## Faculty Senate accepts academic plan

By Lynn Silhasek

The Faculty Senate voted Tuesday to accept the Academic Planning Committee's report to review UNL's new and existing academic programs in light of enrollment changes, possible budget cutbacks and shifts in academic interests.

Entitled "Resource and Allocation Report: Essential Functions of UNL", the document will be used by committee members and department chairmen to evaluate how programs coincide with the University's functions.

Functions of the university outlined in the report include providing a quality education for all Nebraskans, increased recruitment of minority students and increased student financial aid.

The report contains proposals for resource allocations in three different

areas: for non-traditional, non-campus programs; undergraduate programs especially on the freshmen level; and graduate programs.

Smaller class size and the use of senior faculty members to instruct freshman level classes are proposed for the report.

The report also advises that all graduate programs need not be retained in their present form.

Both undergraduate and graduate programs should involve the same teaching faculty, according to the report.

Proposals to strengthen UNL's educational and research programs in areas such as agriculture and rural development also are encouraged, according to the report.