

Speaker reviews Nixon policy on economy; terms it 'flip-flop'

While castigating President Nixon for his reversals in economic policy, Journalist Louis Rukeyser said the country is economically stronger, and Nixon's political future more secure, than many people seem to think.

Rukeyser spoke to a group of about 50 people Wednesday in the Nebraska Union Centennial Room.

His address on "Nixon's Economy" is in conjunction with "The Consumer and the Economy," a conference sponsored by ASUN and the Consumer Aid Group.

Rukeyser noted that economic situations and the implications of an impeachment vote for congressmen might allow Nixon "to avoid a successful effort to impeach him."

It would have to be a "crime-type crime" to impeach him, Rukeyser said, and he did not think Congress had that evidence yet.

Nixon has to develop trust, Rukeyser said. He noted that in areas such as economic policy there is a gap between what Nixon said he would do and what he has done. This has led to a nation of "doubting Thomases", he said.

He said that, when talking about Nixon's

economic policy, he would ask, "Which Nixon?—the Nixon who said he was going to balance the budget or the Nixon who presently is responsible for the greatest peacetime deficits in the United States' history."

"The Nixon who said he would hold the budget down and or the Nixon when, with his \$30 billion budget recommendations for the 1974-75 fiscal year, has called for the largest single budget increase ever."

"The Nixon who said wage-and-price controls would not work or the one who proved it."

Rukeyser called it running the government "by flip-flop."

Despite these inconsistencies, he noted that the United States' position as a world economic leader is the strongest it has been in years.

He said the United States' biggest problem in the next 10 years will be inflation and not depression. And the United States' biggest energy concern will be to develop its own natural resources, such as Alaskan oil, to ease the threat posed by another Arab oil embargo, he said.



Journalist Louis Rukeyser

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Photo by Gail Folde and Stewart Nelson

Consumer tactics topic of speech

A man known for teaching guerilla warfare tactics to consumers will highlight Friday's events at the UNL Consumer Economic Conference.

Richard Harmon, associate director of the Industrial Areas Foundation (the Saul Alinsky Training Institute), trains individuals in building community organizations for local power.

His consumer tactics include going to the source of power with complaints, instead of simply going to that source's front.

"Consumer Activism" will be the subject of Harmon's talk at 4 p.m. in the Nebraska Union Centennial Room.

Julia Hewgley, consumer affairs officer for the Food and Drug Administration in Omaha, will be on East Campus Friday as part of the conference to present an illustrated program called "How FDA Protects the Consumer."

She will address a consumer problems class in the Agricultural Engineering Building 108 at 10 a.m. It is open to the public. Hewgley will talk on the philosophy of consumerism, how the Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act is enforced and what food and cosmetic labeling can accomplish. She also will discuss previous court cases involving the FDA and will show examples of items from some of the cases.

Suicide rate high among students

By Greg Wees

On Feb. 28 a 19-year-old UNL student committed suicide in a UNL fraternity. He was the first UNL student this year to die by suicide, the second leading killer of American college students. Only accidents kill more students, according to figures from the National Institute of Mental Health.

By the end of 1974, about 600,000 students, or roughly 10% of the total college population, will seek some kind of professional help for their emotional problems, according to the Institute's projections.

Of these, at least 100,000 will threaten to kill themselves, 10,000 will actually try and more than 1,000 will succeed, figures project.

Dr. Kenneth Hubble, director of the UNL Mental Health Center, is currently collecting information about suicides. He has been trying to determine "the suicide potential, gestures, and successful suicides" of UNL students since June 1973 when memos outlining the intent of his effort were given to health center personnel.

One result of this plan, said Hubble, has been better than average reporting of attempted suicides. This in turn could lead to discovering better methods for handling suicides, he said.

Since 1971 there have been 13 apparent suicides on the UNL campus. But that figure, Hubble said, is deceptive because there are eight attempted suicides for every successful one.

"Suicides are very difficult to substantiate," he said. "Verifications are difficult because so many real suicides are termed accidents on death certificates."

Others go unreported because life insurance claims are not paid when the cause of death is suicide, he said.

The only way suicides positively can be distinguished from accidental deaths is if the victim leaves a suicide note or tells someone of his intentions, he added.

Hubble said doctors in the UNL Mental Health Center saw about 3,200 patients last year. Of those 3,200, 20% to 30% said they had contemplated suicide, he noted, adding that the number of clients at the center has increased for 1974.

"We have not had a suicide with any of the people we've dealt with yet (this year)," he said. "We've been very fortunate."

Dr. Carmen Grant, coordinator of Outreach, a UNL telephone help line, also deals with suicide attempts by students.

Volunteers have received more calls this year than last year from persons contemplating suicide, Grant said.

According to Outreach data, there were 19 calls in the fall of 1973 from people who talked about suicide, depression or alienation.

In the fall of 1972, only five such calls were received.

Only one conclusion can be drawn, there has been a sudden "increase in terms of suicidal gestures and thinking" for this year, she said.

Dr. William Temby, formerly a member of Harvard's University Health Services, has said "there is nothing easily recognizable about the student who is going to commit suicide," (College Magazine,