



photo by Gail Foida

EXON

cent," Exon said. He said he supported the increase, which had been contained in two bills vetoed by the Legislature last session. The current rate is 11 per cent.

Figuring taxes

The governor said the tax rate is determined by considering the total appropriations made by the Legislature, figuring how much money is on hand to meet these appropriations and estimating how much money will come in from the tax. The state tax rate represents a percentage of the federal income tax.

With increased costs because of inflation, more money was collected through the sales and state income taxes than had been predicted by the State Department of Revenue, Exon said.

Department estimates placed sales tax growth at 8 per cent and income tax growth at 9-10 per cent, according to Exon. Tax growth is determined by the amount of money collected by those taxes that is over the amount collected the year before.

Had the Board been able to predict the tax rate growth and the additional money brought in, Exon said he would have supported the 11 per cent tax rate.

Still not enough

But the amount of money in the general fund still is not enough to match Legislature appropriations, Exon said.

"The way we're sitting right now, we haven't had any cash-flow problems" in the general fund, Exon said. What affects cash flow is that tax rates are set on a calendar year basis but the money from these taxes is paid out on a fiscal year basis, Exon said.

Although Marvel has criticized Exon for initially supporting the 13 per cent income tax rate, Exon said Marvel supported even higher tax rates by backing LB 772, providing state aid to schools.

Exon said he opposes LB 772 because it would increase the state sales and income taxes.

Aid increase

LB 772 requires the state to pay half the operational costs of schools and would raise the level of state aid from \$55 million to \$155 million over a two-year period.

It is on the ballot because of a successful petition drive co-sponsored by State Sens. Ramey Whitney of Chappell and David Stahmer of Omaha.

The governor said the state aid to education amendment unfairly shifts the tax burden by hitting hardest at the finances of those least able to pay, and favors some school districts over others.

Exon said his plan for property tax relief and increased state aid involves direct property taxpayer rebates or credits. He said his plan would use revenues from state sales and income taxes to offset local property taxes and increase school support.

conditional support

Exon's support of education on the college level also was conditional.

"Education is not a sacred cow and must be responsible for the money expense it has and the job it does in teaching," he said.

"We are getting away, finally, from the prevalent thing in the 1960s. The Soviet's satellite Sputnik and President Kennedy's pledge to put a

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CHAMBERS

By Randy Gordon

One candidate for governor in the Nov. 5 election is running his campaign from three different offices: a barbershop that he owns in Omaha, his legislative office in the state capitol and a Volkswagon station wagon that carries the words "Chambers for Governor" on two stickers.

And many UNL students will pay more for tuition this year than Ernest Chambers will spend on his campaign (\$846.90 was the total filed with the secretary of state's office on Oct. 23).

Chambers, an Omaha state senator since 1970 is the first black Nebraskan in the state's 107-year history to file and run for governor.

Chambers said he thinks the major issues in the gubernatorial race are the three candidates: Democratic Gov. J. James Exon, Republican State Sen. Richard Marvel and himself, an Independent.

Integrity important

"With what Watergate has shown you about politicians, you have to look at the character and integrity of the individual running for the office.

"Anyone can make a promise in a campaign. You have to find out, based on the character of the individual candidate, whether or not he is willing to carry out and deliver on the promise that is made," Chambers said.

The governor's character and integrity also can be an example of what public morality is or should be, Chambers said.

"As governor I'm going to be so active that a lot of people are not going to like what I'm doing. You have to sting people or they won't do anything, and I'd sting a lot more as governor than I have in the Legislature," he said.

"Everytime we have a (verbal) encounter, I come away winning. He doesn't know much about very many things.

"Exon refers to himself as 'your governor'. That's what happens to people when they have a god-like complex."

About State Sen. Richard Marvel Chambers says:

"He's a nice man, they say. He's got some good ideas but it takes him too long to get them out."

Self-evaluation

And finally, in reviewing his own character:

"I have an internalized ethical system that is personal for me. It determines what I'm going to do, and as a start, I try to treat people the way I want to be treated myself."

His list of priorities, if elected governor, begins with changing the attitudes of Nebraskans.

"The first thing I would have to do is turn around some of the thinking of people in this state. I would start with the fundamentals and explain what my concept of government is."

That concept includes "embroiling myself in many, many local situations that I think violate the law," he said.

Top priority

Chambers said tax reform is one of his first priorities. He said reform would include eliminating the sales tax and introducing a tax on intangibles (stocks and bonds, paramutual

betting and other investments).

"Intangibles are where a lot of wealth is tied up," Chambers said. "I look at investments as being legalized gambling."

The Omaha state senator said he would favor a graduated income tax investigating all possible resources of the state that might be taxed, if it is decided that it is needed.

He also said he favors increasing corporate taxes. Now, federal tax loopholes allow Nebraska corporations to escape paying taxes. The deficit created in this way is passed on to the state, Chambers said.

Opposes bill

Chambers said he opposes the State Aid to Education Amendment because it is a "thinly disguised tax bill and is a school, not an education bill."

The amendment, LB 772, would increase state sales and income taxes, but provide property tax relief. It would raise the level of state aid from \$55 million to 155 million over a two-year period.

"What is the primary purpose of the schools, to employ teachers and administrators, or to give education to the students?" Chambers asked.

"Until they come up with a bill that will help children learn, read and write better, I won't support it."

New education

Chambers said the state should develop a different type of educational system. "We should make classrooms as much like outdoors as possible," he said, "and let kids talk among themselves about things the instructor teaches them. They (the teachers) should stay out of the way as much as possible."

Chambers said teachers should lead and help formulate public opinions on social issues and should make themselves conspicuous by marching on the state capitol and protesting in "a not so orderly way."

Federal-state relations suffer, Chambers said, because "there are some corrupt people in the federal government who don't properly administer the laws."

"I have little confidence in the way local government operates. It does not represent the interests of the people, is beholden to special interest groups, and is not primarily concerned with the people's welfare."

People programs

Chambers said before additional state funds are made available to local governments, he would request a study to see how local governments are spending the money they already have received. He said future state dollars should be appropriated to "people-oriented" programs.

"I am very concerned about the assistance given families who are poor and have children. There are some state programs, like the fieldhouse, that I don't care about. That's not going to benefit any substantial portion of the populace," he said.

About penal reform, Chambers said that because no prison is escape-proof, he would erect buildings that "look as much like places that people live in as possible."

Such prisons would have a security fence

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