

## Squabbles obscure real issues

At times they could be mistaken for squabbling children.

The Nebraska candidates in this November's election have used more than their share of childish techniques for vote-getting. They have spat over the amounts of money the other candidate is spending. They have accused the other candidate of giving up the fight. They even have used a candidate's sex against her.

One of the most outrageous vote-getting ploys was used by Wayne Ziebarth, 3rd District Democratic congressional candidate in a moment of what hopefully was temporary insanity. Ziebarth said his opponent, Virginia Smith, would be an incompetent representative because a woman's place "is in the home."

More recently, Gov. J. James Exon obscured a remark made by his Republican opponent for governor, Richard Marvel. Somehow, Exon twisted Marvel's statement that he sometimes longed to return to the tranquil Wesleyan campus to mean Marvel had admitted defeat.

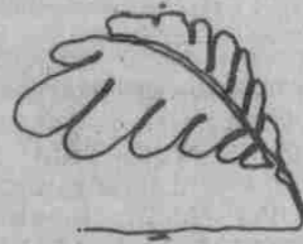
On the other side, Marvel has chastised Exon for the \$67,000 he and his running mate Jerry Whelan spent in the primary last spring.

What many people don't know is that Marvel and his running mate Anne Batchelder spent almost as much in that race. Their figures look much lower on first glance, but only because they did not spend as a team.

Examples of name-calling and petty accusations abound. Unfortunately, they sometimes obscure the real issues of any campaign: Who is the best-qualified candidate? And what goals would each candidate try to meet if elected?

If candidates spent more time answering these two questions instead of squabbling over nonissues, perhaps voters could know who really is the best person for the job.

Jane Owens



## to the editor

Dear Editor,

First Charles Thone registered his approval of Gerald Ford's pardon of Nixon, then Thone went to bat for G. Bradford Cook to try and avert Cook's disbarment.

Now Thone has been caught in an embarrassing scheme, trying to dupe the electorate. He has been "laundering" out-of-state milk fund money to appear as if it has been donated by Nebraska interests. Perhaps a pattern can be perceived from Thone's action.

In this election, it is imperative we affirm the integrity of our political process. We must elect representatives whose honesty is unquestionable — persons who will be worthy of the public trust.

We must not condone those activities which have tarnished the American electoral process these past few years.

Clearly the Dyas-Thone contest is one way in which the people of the 1st Congressional District can display their strong belief in the electoral process, the fair application of the law and in honest campaign practices.

It is time for a positive change for the good of all Nebraskans. Make your vote count on Nov. 5, the people must be heard.

Howard Solender  
David R. Roulston

## Depression: better poor, no way to go but up

Things are great. The President says he'll lick inflation by 1976, hopefully before November of that year. What's more, he says confidently, we certainly don't have to worry that a recession's coming.

Federal Reserve Board Chairman Arthur Burns loyally agrees. He says we've already got one.

But what tipped the scales was the latest Gallup Poll.

"Do the people think I'm going to lead them out of this inflationary mess?" the President asked his ace economic adviser, Semple Ashe Simon.

"Yes, sir," Simon said, "51 per cent think you're going to lead them into another Great Depression instead."

"Exactly, sir," Simon said. "If or when people think there'll be a depression, there's bound to be a depression. For the economy always faithfully does what people think it will do."

"I beg your pardon," the President said.

"If investors think the stock market will go down," Simon explained, "they sell their stocks, and the market goes down. If savers

think the banks will fail, there will be runs on the banks, and the banks will fail. If employers think production will drop, they lay off workers, and production drops. If . . ."

"I get the idea, the President said. "But don't worry. I'll issue a rosy statement to restore confidence in the economy."

arthur hoppe

### innocent bystander

"Another?" Simon said. "Frankly, sir you should declare a depression instead."

After thinking this over, the President did so. "DEPRESSION HITS!" announced the black headlines. The effect on the people, who hadn't known they were in another Great Depression, was startling.

Old-timers nostalgically relished the spirit of camaraderie they remembered from the first depression. They helped each other out, were kind to hobos and said, "We're all in the same boat."

"We've hit rock bottom," the President said grimly. And he went around promising "a chicken in every pot" and predicting that "prosperity is just around the corner." And he was right.

Investors figured the market would have to go up. So it did. Employers figured production would have to increase. So it did. And savers, seeing the banks hadn't failed, saved. So everyone grew rich. Happy days were here again.

Of course, prices soared. "Sometimes," the President said gloomily, "I don't understand the economy."

"It's simple, sir," Simon said. "Either we have inflation where everybody's rich and can't afford to buy things, or we have a depression where everybody's poor and can't afford to buy things. But it's better to be poor, because then there's no way to go but up."

"Do you think it's too soon," said the President, studying the Cost of Living Index, "to have another Great Depression?"

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