

## Economic problems focus of president's address

(Editor's note: This article examines President Gerald Ford's State of the Union address given Wednesday. In Friday's Daily Nebraskan, three staff reporters will present the reactions of Nebraska Representatives McCollister, Smith and Thone, Senators Curtis and Hruska and Gov. Exon.)

By Jim Zalewski

In his State of the Union message to Congress Wednesday, President Gerald Ford called for quick congressional action to cure the nation's economic problems.

Ford asked for legislation within 90 days to cut the high unemployment rate, increase income and production, achieve energy independence, cut federal spending, and advance the cause of world understanding.

The increased income will come in part from a tax rebate program, he said. If passed, the rebate will result in a one year tax reduction of \$16 billion, \$12 billion of which will go to individuals. Ford said this amounts to 12 per cent of all tax payments in 1974.

The rebate will return \$4 billion to businesses, Ford said. In addition, he proposed reducing the corporate tax rate from 48 to 42 per cent.

### Tax returns by May

If these rebates receive congressional approval by April, Ford said the first half of these returns could be made by May and the second half by September. "Cutting taxes now is essential if we are to turn the economy around," he said.

Fundamental tax reforms needed are not included in these rebates, Ford said. However, the proposed measures do offer the best hopes of creating new jobs.

Ford asked Congress not to add new federal programs this year and said he would probably veto any proposed.

### Too many programs

"We have added too many new programs in the past in which the cost increases every year," he said. "We must avoid these huge deficits."

Except for energy programs, federal spending should be restrained in existing programs, he said. Ford also asked for a five per cent limit on all federal pay raises.

Calling it "a matter of simple arithmetic," Ford said only a reduction in federal spending will enable the federal reserve system to avoid inflation.

Ford cited a need to achieve energy independence and listed these goals:

- A reduction of oil imports by one million barrels a day this year, and by two million barrels a day in 1977.

- An end to the vulnerability of foreign economic disruption by 1985.

- The development of every technology and

resource available so the United States will be able to supply much of the free world with energy by the end of the century.

Ford said he foresees difficulties between now and 1985 and that Americans will have to sacrifice if the United States is to become independent of foreign oil suppliers.

### Surplus needed

The United States will need to develop a surplus capacity if energy independence is to be achieved, he said. By 1985, Ford said the United States should have one billion barrels of oil for domestic use and 300 million barrels of oil for national defense on reserve.

In an effort to cut long-term consumption, Ford proposed these measures:

- Mandatory thermal efficiency standards for all new buildings.

- A tax credit of \$150 for those who insulate their homes.

- A program to help low-income families purchase insulation supplies.

- A deference of auto pollution standards for five years in order to cut fuel consumption by 40 per cent.

In addition, Ford said the United States can increase its energy producing capacity by 1985. He said he has a deep belief that the American people can meet these demands.

By 1985, Ford said the United States should have

200 nuclear power plants, 250 operating coal mines, 150 coal-operated power plants, 30 new major refineries, and 20 new synthetic fuel shale oil plants.

### "Historic opportunity"

Ford said the United States faces "an historic opportunity" to shape the world. He said this can be achieved by developing energy resources which would enable the United States to help other countries in need.

"If we turn away, the world will unleash new dangers and unstabilities on the United States," he said.

Although the outlook on world peace is "encouraging," Ford said the United States cannot take international peace for granted. With nuclear knowledge spreading, he said, American military forces must not be slighted in their abilities to protect the country.

Ford also asked Congress not to pass any legislation that would hamper his ability to negotiate with foreign countries.

The cause of world understanding must be advanced, he said, if the United States is to proceed in the right direction.

"We have the ability and know-how to achieve our goals," he said. "We can achieve them with cooperation from the people, the President, and the Congress."

"Let us make America again what it has so long been, a stronghold and a beacon of the light of liberty for the whole world."



President Ford Wednesday called for quick action to cure the nation's economic woes.

## Semester write-off remains possibility

By Dennis Onnen

Ever had a semester that would be best forgotten and written off the books?

That write-off will become reality if a proposal for a bankrupt academic semester is passed at the Faculty Senate meeting Feb. 11.

The proposal would allow a student to have one or two bad semesters removed from his records if he provided a good excuse for his poor showing, according to ASUN Sen. Jim Macomber.

Macomber, along with Vernon Williams, director of the Counseling Center and architecture professor Phil Corkill make up the subcommittee of the Faculty Senate Grading Committee which formulated the proposal.

Macomber said personal problems would be a valid excuse. He said that, in addition to having an excuse, a student would have to compile 15 hours of 3.0 grade average, 30 hours of 2.5 or 45 hours of 2.0 immediately following the bad semester in order to have it removed.

Under the proposal, a student would appeal first to the UNL registrar. If the registrar then considered the student's excuse questionable, he would send the case to the Faculty Senate Grading Appeals Committee.

"They (the committee) would make a judgment whether the student's appeal is valid or not," Macomber said.

He said some faculty members might be against the proposal because they are

opposed to change, but Macomber said he expects it to pass.

"A lot of it depends on who attends the Faculty Senate meeting," he said. "They never have a very good turnout."

Williams said he also expects the proposal to pass.

He said the UNL proposal is modeled after a similar system in the California State University system. The plan here would be less restrictive because a student would not be required to submit a formal written appeal, he said.

Macomber said the subcommittee began its study late last spring. He said the proposal will be presented at the Feb. 11 meeting by Steve Hilliard, chairman of the Faculty Senate Grading Committee.

## Guidelines suggested for election of ASUN head

Secretary of State Allen Beermann has suggested new guidelines and procedures for the next election of ASUN officers.

Now that the ASUN president is a nonvoting member of the NU Board of Regents, Beermann said, the elections should follow state election guidelines and procedures.

In a meeting with Ken Bader, vice chancellor for student affairs, Beermann listed 15 areas he said should be looked into to assure that ASUN elections are valid.

The law, passed in the November election as Amendment Number One, states that whoever is voted ASUN president becomes a student regent.

### Not mandatory

Beermann said it is not mandatory that ASUN

accept the suggestions of his office, but that it would prevent the elections being challenged.

Bader will give the suggested guidelines and procedures to ASUN President Ron Clingenpeel and Student Electoral Commissioner Gary Hall.

The 15 guideline areas include notices of elections which must be run in a newspaper three times before elections, a poll book explaining procedures, swearing in poll workers and ballot counters and filing with notarization.

Bader also said ASUN may be able to arrange with the city to borrow its voting booths.

### Absentee ballots

Provisions for absentee ballots were stressed by Beermann, Bader said, so students who are sick or out of town on sport assignments could still vote.

Beermann said, however, that changing the

elections procedure is entirely up to ASUN and the state "will not be involved."

According to Bader, the money for carrying out the guidelines must come from the ASUN budget.

"It will take more man hours to organize than other elections," he said.

But he added that there will be "no need for massive student fund."

### Two offices

Bader also suggested that because the next ASUN president will, in effect, be voted into two offices, students should get out to vote.

"At least the student body president should have a good turnout," Bader said.

Clingenpeel said he has not received the guidelines and procedural proposals from Bader, but that ASUN is currently working on changes in elections.