



Sen. Jules Burbach, Crofton, new speaker of the Unicameral

Burbach plans split with past

By John Kalkowski

As new speaker of the Unicameral, State Sen. Jules Burbach does not intend to follow the route of past speakers.

"We are operating as though we are still in biennial sessions," he said. "We must now conduct ourselves in a manner conducive to annual sessions." The Unicameral switched from biennial to annual sessions in 1969.

In addition to presiding over the Legislature in the absence of the lieutenant governor, his major duty is providing leadership for the senators, Burbach said.

Burbach said he wants to fulfill his duties with a firm hand, but is still looking for "a smooth flow of operation among the senators."

To streamline legislation, Burbach plans to set an agenda for discussion on proposed bills and "to stick with it as much as possible."

"More clout" to speaker

The speaker now has "more clout" because he can make a proposal and it will stand unless overridden by a majority of the senators. According to Burbach this is important because, in the past, the speaker first needed a majority to approve his proposals.

Burbach said this privilege can make the speaker a powerful person in the Unicameral but many former speakers did not use this power.

Burbach said he also will try to work more closely with the legislative committees so he knows when bills are ready. Then, he said, similar "I am not convinced that we need the entire

90-day session," he said. Burbach added that the Unicameral could shorten its sessions if they conduct their work in an organized way.

"Fair man"

As the first Democratic speaker since 1953, Burbach foresees no problems with the other senators.

"After 18 years in the Unicameral, I think the other legislators know I am a fair man," he said.

"We never want to lose sight of the fact that there are three bodies in the government," Burbach said. "Harmony is fine, but there should be some differences."

Burbach pointed out that Gov. J. James Exon has vetoed more bills than any other governor.

Four years ago Burbach lost the Democratic gubernatorial nomination to Exon by a small margin. Last year he made an unsuccessful bid for lieutenant governor, but lost to Lt. Gov. Gerald Whelan, who presides over the Unicameral.

However, Burbach said, there are no hard feelings and he anticipates "harmonious dealings" with the executive branch.

State government has become more complicated because of demands placed on it by the federal government, he said.

"The federal government said we must have motor vehicle inspection or lose 10 per cent of our highway funds. The federal government said we must set our speed limit at 55 miles per hour or lose 10 per cent of our highway funds," Burbach said. "Let's run Nebraska for Nebraskans and not for the federal government."

Winter weather in Nebraska may have stopped some things cold in their tracks, but it hasn't put a freeze on UNL campus construction.

Tom Nycum, assistant director of the UNL Physical Plant, said there have been no unexpected construction delays due to weather.

He said there have been some expected delays which are allowed for in most contracts.

On Schedule

Nycum said both the new fieldhouse at the Fairgrounds and the Life Sciences Bldg. on City Campus are progressing according to schedule.

Most of the outside work is completed on the fieldhouse arena and its expected completion date is this August, Nycum

said. He added that the swimming pool and track probably won't be finished until December.

About 90 per cent of the foundation work has been completed on the Life Sciences Bldg., he said. Completion date is set for August 1976.

East Campus construction is also on schedule, Nycum said.

Moving date set

The Law College is 88 per cent complete with an anticipated moving date set for March 17, Nycum said.

"Although we originally anticipated completion in December, we expected that it might be delayed some," he said.

Nycum said students will be able to make use of the new Outdoor Recreational Complex in early March if

the ground thaws enough to finish concrete pouring.

The complex includes three basketball courts which can be flooded in the winter for ice skating, six tennis courts and five handball courts.

Nothing unexpected

There have been no unexpected delays on the Barkley Center for Communicative Disorders on East Campus and it is progressing on schedule, Nycum said.

Also on schedule is the Veterinary Diagnostic Wing. It is part of an Animal Health Research Center, the rest of which is still in the planning stages.

"If there is not an excessive amount of snow and cold weather we expect everything to continue on schedule," Nycum said.

Experimental radio

New dawn breaking

Sunrise Communications, a nonprofit radio station, may finally dawn early this summer, if granted an operating license from the Federal Communications Commission.

Ron Kurtenbach, a member of the board of directors, said an application for a construction permit was filed last June. WOW in Omaha filed a petition to deny the application on the grounds that the radio frequencies were close enough on the dial to cause some interception.

But Kurtenbach said if an interception problem does arise, a solution can be found.

"We think we'll get a construction permit with the condition that we be willing to put in stops to avoid interference," he said.

Despite the delay in receiving their license, Sunrise has not been inactive. The group is constructing a recording studio in the First Christian Church, 430 So. 16th St., which will be used as the operating station when the license is granted.

Until then the recording studio will be used to produce public service announcements for noncommercial groups to distribute to other radio stations.

Tape exchange

Kurtenbach said the group hopes to build up a tape library large enough to exchange tapes with stations across the country and possibly in Canada.

Because Sunrise Communications is a nonprofit organization, it depends on support from volunteers and donations. Money has been raised from benefit concerts for the group but Kurtenbach said the money deposited in a bank cannot be used until the license is granted.

Another source of revenue comes from subscriptions sold to supporters of Sunrise Communications, Kurtenbach said.

"Our rates are modified downward on the basis of ability to pay. It's a very progressive system. I think if (NU President D.B.) Varner subscribed he would be paying about \$100 a year, but he hasn't subscribed. I think the average subscription rate for nonprofit stations similar to ours is about \$15 across the country," he said.

Equipment donated

Some equipment and the space for the recording studio have been donated to Sunrise Communications.

"First Christian Church is being very gracious to us by not charging rent," Kurtenbach said.

Sunrise Communications earlier was offered a tower site on the roof of the YMCA Building, Kurtenbach said, but was later denied this by the board of directors of the YMCA.

The station plans to operate with a budget of about \$400 per month for electricity costs, records and other equipment. All work will be done by volunteers.

Kurtenbach said he expects there to be more improvisation on Sunrise Communications than other local stations.

"Most radio, to me, is a terrible, terrible disappointment. It almost seems a criminal waste of energy. One of my acid tests I use on other stations is calling and requesting the Jimi Hendrix version of the Star Spangled Banner," he said.

Open station

The consensus of the board of directors, Kurtenbach said, is to have a station open both to the operators and the community, "including anarchists, fascists and Communists."

Sunrise Communications will not be a powerful station when it begins operating, but Kurtenbach said, "If you can get KRNU, you can likely get Sunrise." The station will operate on 10 watts of power.

If Sunrise Communications does receive its license it will begin operations in the coming summer.

"We are confident in prevailing over the conflict with WOW and we think this form of experimental radio will be marvelous," Kurtenbach said.

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