

UNL economist:

Ford missed mark with tax proposal

Wallace Peterson, UNL professor of economics, said Thursday he thinks President Gerald Ford's State of the Union address did not get at the real problem of automobile petroleum consumption.

Regarding control of petroleum consumption, Peterson said "there are very few options open to the United States." He said he is in favor of fuel price increase because of its positive effect on conservation.

He said Ford failed to recognize public transportation as a means of easing petroleum usage.

Commenting on the fuel price increase, he said he thinks the public is concerned with whether the price increase would force a cutback of petroleum usage.

Peterson said he questions whether the tax rebate program was large enough, considering the depth of the current recession.

He said he thinks President Ford should have proposed a reduction in the payroll tax for relief of lower and middle income individuals since the payroll tax takes away more from those incomes.

Peterson said he thinks the tax cut program will get through Congress in some fashion but he said he doubts the energy program as it is will go through.



Professor Wallace C. Peterson, chairman of the UNL Department of economics.

Money bar to minorities

Jim Smith, UNL director of minority affairs, told members of the Council on Student Life (CSL) Thursday night that lack of financial support is the major reason blacks and other minority students leave the university.

Insensitivity of professors to the special needs of minority students and a lack of social life were other problems Smith said students had mentioned as reasons for leaving UNL.

The best way to involve minorities in activities and organizations on campus is to "build guaranteed success stories," Smith said.

He said a program in which minorities could actively work for Lincoln businesses would help the community and encourage blacks to remain in school and in Nebraska upon graduation.

He said he is optimistic about the future of minority students as long as money is available, but if financial support is withdrawn, "UNL could lose its entire minority population."

He said that blacks and Mexican-Americans have expressed discomfort in classes because when the discussion is on minorities, both teachers and other students look to them for all the answers.

Helping ethnic groups feel that they are a part of a community is critical so they have a desire to go all the way through college, Smith said.

Asked if the teachers were at fault for the alienated feelings of minorities, he said, "I will call it a breakdown in communications and give everyone the benefit of the doubt."

Smith expressed dissatisfaction that the few blacks who do graduate from UNL leave the state.

He suggested that the student organizations and professors contact minority students and try to work out problems before giving up on them.

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