

# Committee questions Varner's proposals

By Jim Zalewski

The legislature's appropriations committee dug deeply into all proposals presented Thursday by NU President D.B. Varner.

Senator John Savage and chairman Richard Marvel were especially persistent and questioned virtually every listing made by Varner.

The hearing bogged down about operation of the new fieldhouse. Varner proposed that the UNL athletic department pay the operating expenses, with the remainder coming from the state.

Savage said this is not equitable since the state fair would use the building and should pay some of the costs.

### Won't make money

The chance that the athletic department might make money on basketball games and not report it to the state also bothered Savage. He was assured by Miles Tommerasen, UNL vice-chancellor for business and finance, that only the football program produces revenue.

Varner's proposal listed expenses which would be incurred in the operation of the new fieldhouse, but indicated no revenues.

"I assume you have some revenues to balance this out," Marvel said. "You better have."

Marvel asked Varner what he would do if the committee gave one lump sum to the university and let it divide the funds among the three campuses.

Varner replied he would rather have the committee do it in order to maintain tranquility in the system.

### Moments of frustration

Remaining calm most of the time except for a few moments of frustration at the committee's inquisitiveness, Varner presented his proposals methodically in spite of occasional sarcastic remarks from Marvel.

Concern for the taxpayer was the main reason for the committee's intense questioning, Marvel said.

"My major objection is that the public doesn't know what is going on in the general appropriation of funds," Marvel said.

Perhaps the mood for the meeting was set when Varner said he had appeared before appropriations committees for 25 years and knew not to expect to receive his requests.

"Then maybe you should open with a prayer," one committee member said.



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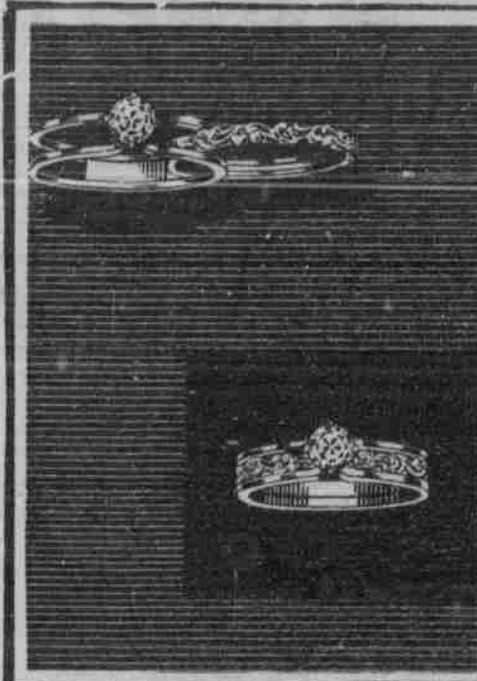
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