

Symphony depends on patrons

If Nebraska is the cultural wasteland some claim it is, it's not because the people in this state aren't interested. The tickets to last year's St. Louis Symphony Orchestra performance in Kimball Recital Hall were sold out in two hours. This year 90 per cent of the tickets were sold the first day.

The orchestra won't be back next year. It's not because the orchestra feels its talents are being wasted on backward Nebraskans. Nor is it because Nebraskans have found themselves unable to enjoy music that doesn't sound like a football fight song. Rather, it is a question of simple arithmetic.

It cost \$35,000 to bring the orchestra here last year for four performances. More than \$20,000 of that came from grants awarded by the Mid-America Arts Alliance and the Nebraska Arts Council. That money will not be available next year.

Assuming those people who lined up at Kimball this year to buy tickets weren't just making a token sacrifice on the altar of culture, something should be done to bring the St. Louis orchestra back.

An increase in ticket prices probably would not get the job done. According to Performing Arts Coordinator Ron Bowlin, tickets for the St. Louis Symphony would have to cost about \$11

if the event were to pay for itself. Even the most culture-starved Nebraskan would probably think twice about that.

The other alternative, university funding, is equally infeasible. The Fees Allocations Board, already overloaded with requests for funds, allocated \$10,700 to the Cultural Affairs Committee for next year's program. Appropriating an additional \$25,000 for the orchestra would have left other deserving organizations without funds.

In the short term, then, those interested in seeing the return of the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra should ask the Mid-America Arts Alliance and the Nebraska Arts Council to reconsider their decision.

And in the long term, Lincoln should have a performing hall large enough to make ticket-supported events feasible (Kimball Recital Hall seats 850) and attractive enough to draw first-rate performers. Such a hall is not likely to be built until the lines at city councilmen's doors are as long as those at the Kimball ticket booth earlier this year.

Wes Albers



Watergate conspirators discover crime pays

This is for those of you who believe the Watergate conspirators "paid the price" for their crimes.

G. Gordon Liddy, convicted of burglary, conspiracy and illegal wiretapping in the Watergate break-in, recently received \$10,000 for an interview with the Associated Press.

James W. McCord Jr. and E. Howard Hunt, both convicted of conspiracy, among other things, for their parts in the break-in, have published books concerning the affair.

Egil Krogh, Jr., guilty of conspiracy in the Ellsberg break-in, is traveling the lecture circuit pulling in \$1,000 a night.

Jeb Stuart Magruder, who pleaded guilty to conspiracy in the Watergate cover-up, reportedly received \$100,000 for his printed version of Watergate.

John Dean, the world's best-known squealer, convicted of conspiracy in the cover-up, has been traveling the lecture circuit pulling in an estimated \$3,500 per speech. He is also expected to receive \$300,000 for a book about Watergate.

H.R. Haldeman, also convicted of conspiracy in the Watergate cover-up, recently received at least \$25,000 to tell the American public, via CBS News,

now innocent a part he played in the affair.

Haldeman, and possibly John L. Ehrlichman, also guilty of conspiracy, are expected to get their stories out in book form, for which they'll probably receive phenomenal amounts.

Ron Ziegler, Nixon's press agent, guilty of no crimes except blatant idiocy, was to go on a lecture tour that would have paid rather well, except for the

joe dreesen

smiling grimly

fact that many students refused to let their money be spent for Ziegler's upkeep.

Richard Nixon, the crown prince of Watergate, who, thanks to our President Gerald Ford, was pardoned of the crimes he committed relating to Watergate, is expected to receive upwards of \$2 million for his memoirs.

Nixon, now spending his time on the beach at San Clemente, has also been mentioned as a possible candidate for an ambassadorial post or some other

position relating to foreign affairs.

All in all, it appears as if the Watergate break-in wasn't too bad an idea for these "gentlemen."

Almost three years after the June 11 burglary, only one of the men listed above is currently in jail—G. Gordon Liddy. The rest have either been pardoned, released on bail or have already served reduced jail sentences.

All of these men, in one way or another, have profited considerably from Watergate, by telling or writing their recollections of the affair.

Some, such as Howard Hunt and G. Gordon Liddy, who at one time were nothing but unknown burglars, have been catapulted into the national limelight, something denied them before Watergate.

It must be said that these "public servants" did receive some notoriety as a result of the break-in, but already, people are talking about politically resurrecting Richard Nixon and others have said history will treat him kindly.

Perhaps after it's all said and done, Richard Nixon and associates have had the last laugh. Instead of paying for their crimes, it seems the Watergate conspirators, thanks to the American public, have been paid for their crimes.

