

# Speakers agree U.S. faces series of crises

By Lori Demo

Omaha—Unfinished agendas received most speaker and listener attention at Creighton University's second annual Bicentennial Symposium: "America 1976: The Unfinished Agenda."

The symposium began Friday, the 200th anniversary of the battle of Lexington and by its conclusion on Sunday, nine speakers had offered their ideas on what the nation must do as it approaches the Bicentennial.

According to a former aide to Presidents John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson, the American Bicentennial will be a grave test of American society, and the nation needs to write a new American agenda.

### Questions answered

Robert W. Lilley, president of American Telephone and Telegraph (AT&T), also was concerned with America's unfinished economic agenda and said Americans are just realizing they cannot determine their own economic destiny.

According to Lilley, Americans are beginning to learn the facts of life all over again at the age of 200.

Two university officials both said America's higher education system will face a crisis if it does not move away from its current trend of stressing technology and ignoring morality, integrity and purpose.

### Pursuit of wisdom

Both Franklin H. Littell, professor of religion at Temple University in Philadelphia and C. Peter Magrath, president of the University of Minnesota and former chancellor at UNL, agreed that while technology is important, a balance between it and the "pursuit of wisdom" needs to be expressed in American universities.

Whether it was the economy, national and foreign

## Student found dead of gunshot wound

A UNL student was found dead Thursday at 631 S. 17th St., apparently of a self-inflicted gunshot wound, according to Lincoln Police.

Police said Lawrence M. Dubivsky, 21, a senior majoring in business administration, was found on the floor of a friend's apartment when the friend returned home.

Dubivsky was a member of Navy ROTC. Police said a high-powered rifle was found lying by his body.

policy or education, all speakers agreed that on the eve of its Bicentennial, America faces a series of crises.

Walt W. Rostow said this test will determine how Americans answer questions of the economy and politics at home and abroad.

Rostow, who now teaches history and economics at the University of Texas at Austin, said Americans will be able to meet the crises of today's pessimism and disarray with the innovativeness it has shown in the past.

"The problems we face are not easy," he said. "They will demand sacrifice, risk and, most painful of all, breaking out of all modes of thought and action."

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### Outcome

The outcome of this test, he said, will depend over the next few years on whether or not:

—Americans can deal successfully with the new economic agenda at home and abroad.

—the country can recover from what he called the tragedy of folding in Southeast Asia without spiraling isolationism or a great war while playing a role in re-establishing the world's security system so shaped by this tragedy.

—the political process can recover from what he said is the distortion of Watergate.

"This is the time for unity," he said, "for building a consensus among us, for building a consensus between the president and Congress behind which we all can rally."

Currently, he said the American domestic program is inadequate in "facing the chilling economic challenge" and international programs are not in balance.

### Miserable end

"We are in danger of digressing to neo-mercantilism, a struggle which may bring a miserable end to the saga of 2,000 years of growth while men and nations squabble for scarce resources," he said.

As in the past, Americans have a great reserve of energy, idealism and creativeness which will enable them to innovate solutions to their problems, Rostow said.

"That's what the Bicentennial is about, and that's how it should be in this land of ours which has always been the gallery of magnificent experiments," he said.

AT&T president Lilley also said the time is right, with the current spasm in economic events, to re-examine and list economic and social values and priorities in a new agenda.

### Soul searching

"The time is here for very thorough soul searching necessary to distinguish between what we need, what we want and what we can afford to pay," he said. "For the first time in many years we are awakening from the reality that we cannot determine our destination exactly as we see it, disregarding others if it serves our purpose."

Lilley said the shortage of energy is enough in itself to wake the United States from the dream of unlimited choices and priorities.

### Meaning of life

Littell said that because universities are not engaged enough in the meaning of life "the typical product of our modern university is a technically incompetent barbarian."

While all speakers wanted the nation to change, none knew what that change should be.

"I hope America's unfinished agenda will always be just that—unfinished. It needs not completion, but continual development," Lilley said.



Photo by Ted Kirk

Walt Rostow, professor of history and economics at the University of Texas at Austin.

# Phone calls solicit students for buying service

By Ron Wylie

Perhaps you are one of the UNL students who has answered the phone recently to hear a young woman invite you to join a buying program which will "save you thousands of dollars per year."

The telephoned invitation is only to stimulate interest in the program. The next step involves listening to a sales presentation at the company's offices. Telephone solicitors offer UNL students a free gift (a silver dollar) if they will come to the Modern Guide to Buying Inc. headquarters, in the Walton Bldg. on 11th St., for the presentation.

At the sales meeting, students hear buying service division manager Jim Beasley or his assistant Michael Canney outline the advantages to be gained through collective purchase of consumer items.

Canney, speaking to nine UNL students last Tuesday, told of hard times facing the American

economy and said such periods of unemployment and tight money indicate the need for organizations which he said save people money through bypassing the middleman in consumer transactions.

Canney told students the average young adult spends \$3,000 to \$5,000 a year on consumer goods which could just as easily be purchased through his buying service. Promising a savings of 20 to 30 per cent on all items, Canney said the average savings per year to a buying service member is \$1,000.

### Money back

"The Buying Service will always offer goods for less than the prices at local retail stores," Canney assured prospective members. He said the service would offer double a member's money back if he made a purchase through the organization and then discovered he could have bought the item for less at a local store.

Other guarantees offered by the buying service are factory service and warranties; efficient, prompt and fully-insured delivery of purchases; and a refund policy if the customer is not satisfied with the product, according to Canney.

Students were shown the service catalogue which lists a wide range of labels and brands and includes almost every type of consumer product, from automobiles to vibrators.

Canney presented the promised silver dollars to all students in attendance, asked those who were interested to stay and passed around buying service contracts.

The contract, of the Modern Guide to Buying Inc. of Kansas City, Mo., is subtitled "College Student Membership Agreement" and is an application to open a revolving credit account. If accepted, it grants membership in the buying service, provided the member pays the prevailing dues rate. Dues are currently \$24 per year, but prospective members are warned that inflation may drive this rate higher.

### Installation plan

Initial membership costs \$400, which, the students are told, guarantees membership for ten years. Students need not pay the total \$400 immediately, but may make installment plan payments (as little as \$19 a month). Unmentioned in the sales pitch, but

easily readable on the contract is the information that the balance due in this revolving credit account will be charged interest in the amount of one and one-half per cent per month.

The contract also contains a note informing the prospective member that the transaction may be cancelled at any time prior to midnight of the third business day after signing the contract.

Agency checks with Nebraska's regulatory services last week showed the buying service to be complying with the law.

Secretary of State Allen Beermann inquired and found that MGBI had a "certificate of foreign authority," he said, which "indicates that they're in good standing at least in their home state."

And Mike Edwards, of the Nebraska Banking Commission, said the service's revolving credit account operation was acceptable as long as the company followed the disclosure law (LB 307) which demands that the agreement is in writing, the purchaser is given a copy of the agreement, the time-price differential is stated prior to the purchase, and no further amount is charged.

### Inquiries made

The Cornhusker Better Business Bureau (BBB) reports it has had several inquiries concerning the buying service and has investigated the operation locally as well as through its parent company, the Executive Buying Service of Cranbury, N.J.

When the buying service first started its sales operations in Lincoln, BBB manager Lois Tefft said, they offered, as a gift of listening to the presentation, free hotel accommodations in Florida. The BBB found this was actually a land promotion scheme and suggested that MGBI cease that activity, she said. Now the buying service is complying with the law, Tefft said.

"We wish they wouldn't stress their high-pressure 'take it or leave it' approach," she said, "but there's no improper activity."

Reacting to reports that MGBI salesmen use BBB endorsements in their presentations, Tefft said, "They're not supposed to do that. We don't endorse anything."

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