

# Police chief confirmation rests on Denney's vote

By George Miller

The vote of Lincoln City Council Chairman Max Denney appears to be a deciding factor in the confirmation of Mayor Helen Boosalis' city police chief nomination, George Hansen.

At present, three councilmen have indicated that they will vote to confirm Hansen while three have said that they will not.

Supporting Hansen's nomination are Sue Bailey, John Robinson and Bob Jeambey. Opposed are Dick Baker, Steve Cook and Bob Sikya.

Councilman Denney has been out of town and is expected to return to Lincoln this weekend.

### Unanimous choice

The five-member selection committee unanimously approved Hansen over five other applicants including Acting Chief Dale Adams and Community Relations Officer Leighton Wessel.

"I promised when I ran for mayor that I would try to find the best qualified police chief for the city," she said. "I certainly hope that the council will approve Hansen."

"I am confident that after he's been in Lincoln for some time, the people will become as aware as I did of his high

qualifications and ability to respond to the community's needs," she said.

Councilman Robinson said that the selection committee which recommended Hansen was "legitimately constituted and the recommendations it made to the mayor were the ones I would have supported."

"Hansen will bring innovation and introduce new ideas to the community," Robinson said.

Councilman Bailey echoed Robinson's comments.

"I think the selection committee did a thorough job," she said. She added that many divergent viewpoints were represented and that she was inclined to support its unanimous choice.

### Search was needed

"There was division in the police department and a nation-wide search (for a new chief) made sense, even if it reaffirmed a local man," she said.

As an outsider, Hansen "will help

resolve internal conflicts. I see no reason why he will not be confirmed," she said. "It looks like there will be four votes and that's all it takes."

Councilman Jeambey said that one of Hansen's outstanding qualities was "his strong experience as a police chief in a variety of communities where he came into difficult situations and was able to overcome them."

### "Impeccable" officer

A "proven administrator who knows how to lead and to work with men," he called Hansen an "impeccable" law enforcement officer and said that Sunnyvale, Calif., where Hansen is currently public safety director, has the lowest crime record of any California town.

Jeambey said that Hansen, a Falls City, Neb. native, has "the right combination of police experience, command experience and mid-western roots."

Councilman Dick Baker said that the committee should have selected a Lincolnite.

"I strongly feel that when you have an organization which is working well, you should fill vacancies from within," he said.

### Resident preferred

"If there was graft in the department, then I would say go outside the department and have a wholesale shakeup," he said. "I have nothing against Mr. Hansen," Baker added. "His record looks favorable."

However, Baker said, that if any Lincoln force members had survived the screening committees and ended up on the final list of nominees, then one of those members should have been selected.

Baker said that he thought the Council was "pretty well split on the nomination and that Councilman Denney would be the key vote."

## short stuff

The ASUN Book Exchange closed Wednesday. Students wishing to pick up books may do so today between 12-5 p.m. in the Nebraska Union North-South Conference Rooms.

Rigel-Three, a Star Trek meeting, will be held in the basement of the First Federal Bldg., 1235 N St., Saturday, Sept. 6, beginning at 10 a.m.

A party for all new Chinese students is

planned by the Chinese Student Association for Saturday, in the Abel north lounge at 7 p.m.

A recital of organ music presented by Charles W. Ore, associate professor of music at Concordia College in Seward, is scheduled for 4 p.m. Sunday at Kimball Recital Hall, 11th and R streets.

There will be a health education majors' meeting at 3 p.m. Monday in the Nebraska Union.

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