

Committee faces financial questions

By John Kalkowski

The question facing the Legislature's Revenue Committee is whether higher tax rates should be established or this year's budget appropriations be repealed, according to Waverly Sen. Jerome Warner.

Warner was one of three senators who testified before the Revenue Committee Wednesday with State Tax Commissioner William Peters and State Treasurer Frank Marsh.

He said that by administering current laws, operating by better management principles and raising the tax rate, the state's fiscal squeeze can be loosened.

Sen. Ralph Kelly of Grand Island told the committee that the public is being deluded when they think the amount they pay in taxes has not risen.

"Total state spending has skyrocketed," he said. In 1968, the state spent \$86 million

in state tax dollars. The 1976 budget will spend \$372 million in state funds, Kelly said.

Sen. Orval Keyes of Springfield added that total state spending, including federal funds and reappropriations should extend to \$852 million this year.

Gov. J. James Exon, in his proposals, suggests that the state continue a five per cent budget reserve.

The five per cent reserve is not satisfactory for a variable budget which is constantly increasing and decreasing, according to Kelly.

Marsh, however, said he thinks that an even higher percentage of reserve might be prudent.

Another problem facing the Revenue Committee is whether the Legislature or the State Board of Equalization should make what Marsh called an inevitable tax

increase.

Kelly said he did not necessarily think the Legislature can do a better job than the Equalization Board. However, Marsh added that because the Legislature is a nonpartisan body it might be able to "wring out the partisanship" involved in the decision.

The State Board of Equalization is composed of five members, all elected on partisan tickets.

Marsh said the state's fiscal squeeze is caused by an estimated \$44 million of debts to be paid in January. After that, he said, the debt payments taper off.

Marsh suggested that a solution to the pinch early next year, might be a reexamination of dates on which funds are given to school districts, county and local governments.

Public hearings before the Revenue Committee continue today.

FAB could freeze funds

If financial summaries by certain university organizations aren't submitted soon, a freeze on funds given by the Fees Allocation Board (FAB) will be instituted, the board ruled Wednesday.

FAB asked Jack Guthrie, director of the office of student activities, to withhold any allocations traceable to the board until these summaries are received.

The organizations involved must be notified before this takes effect, board member Dennis Martin said.

Groups mentioned who have not submitted their summaries were: Ag Advisory Board, Graduate Students Association, Black Culture Programs, Hockey Club, Rowing Team, Chinese Student Association and International Club.

Also, the board agreed to form four three-member subcommittees to evaluate budgetary and programming areas of the Recreation Dept. and Facilities, the Career Planning and Placement Office, Union Operations and the Center for Students and Organizations.

It further ruled that the subcommittees should submit a report to FAB by Nov. 19 on the status of these groups.

With the creation of these subcommittees, Martin said, FAB would not always need to conduct hearing for each of the organizations as has been done in the past.

Procedures and criteria for allocating funds were also discussed by FAB. It was decided that the board will continue its policy of allocating funds to activities that enhance cultural and educational value before social value.

Chancellor post attracts 140 applicants

One hundred and forty men and women, representing almost every major university in the country, are vying for the position of UNL chancellor, according to Richard Gilbert, chancellor search committee chairman and professor of chemical engineering.

Oct. 20 was the deadline for applications and nominations. Gilbert emphasized confidentiality of names and some nominees don't know they are being considered.

He refused to say how many of the 140 are from NU or how many are female. He

did say, however, that fewer females than males applied.

The committee will cut the list to five or 10 names by Dec. 1, he said. The NU Board of Regents and NU President D. B. Varner then will select one person from the list, he said.

Because of the "tremendous grapevine" throughout college administrations, the search committee received applications and nominations before the committee's first advertisement for the position was released in the Chronicle for Higher Education on Sept. 22, Gilbert said. The weekly publica-

tion is circulated to college administrators.

Most applicants and nominees are or have been administrators at their colleges.

He said the search committee is looking for persons in line administrative positions, as opposed to those in staff positions. A line administrator is one with authority and from whom information and decisions emanate, according to Gilbert.

Along with administrative experience, the committee is looking for someone with "good academic experience" and knowledge of a land grant institution such as UNL, Gilbert said.

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