

Students advised to prepare for international trade

By Lisa Brown

Today's business students should be prepared for international trade, according to James Van Osdol, a speaker at the sixth annual seminar for business teachers held Saturday at Norden Laboratories.

About 35 people teaching business or coordinating courses in Nebraska high schools or colleges attended the seminar sponsored by the Lincoln Chapter of the Administrative Management Society and Delta Pi Epsilon, UNL's honorary graduate fraternity in business education.

Van Osdol, international sales manager of Hy-Gain Electronics, Inc., of Lincoln, said more small businesses enter business on an international level each year. He said

the United States government offers what he called nice incentives for businesses developing international trade. Some foreign countries offer special programs for locating production plants in their countries, he said.

Puerto Rico

Citing Puerto Rico as an example, he said unemployment there is a very real thing. For businesses locating in that country, there are no federal taxes and the government provides free recruiting, testing and training for employees. For the first two years, the company receives a 25 per cent rebate on salaries paid to Puerto Ricans, he said.

Teachers could prepare their students

by making them familiar with terms used in overseas trade, he said, and added that a good geography and French or Spanish language background would be useful.

Addressing the group on the changing business ethics on the national level were Lois Tefft, manager of the Lincoln Better Business Bureau (BBB), and Jerry Fennell, special assistant to the Nebraska attorney general, Consumer Protection Division.

Tefft said the BBB was established 62 years ago to serve as a self-regulating control on businesses. The BBB is a non-profit organization sponsored by dues-paying businessmen in the community.

Three functions

She said the three functions of the BBB are to receive consumer complaints, keep an inquiry-reporting system and provide consumer education.

She said that inquiry-reporting is the most important. Consumers should contact the BBB for information about any business they aren't familiar with before dealing with them, she said. The BBB can provide consumers with reliability and performance reports and specific information about the business.

If a person does have a problem with a business and can not settle it with them, a complaint may be submitted to the BBB for further investigation. The state BBB resolved 87 per cent of the complaints received, 13 per cent more than the national average.

She said the 13 per cent not resolved are forwarded to other offices such as the state attorney general, the postal investigation department, or Federal Trade Commission.

Fennel said the state's Consumer Protection Division's job is to resolve consumer problems that can't be resolved by self-regulation.

Three functions of his office are complaint processing, consumer education, and litigation, which he said was the most important because the ability to sue is required for effective consumer protection.

Law protects consumers

The Consumer Protection Office, which was opened in January 1975, followed the Nebraska Consumer Protection Act, a civil statute passed in 1974 prohibiting unfair and deceptive business.

The office now handles about 150 complaints a month and closes about 60 per cent satisfactorily, he said. It has continued to work on the other 40 per cent or has transferred them to other government agencies with more jurisdiction, he said.

A panel of four women who participated in a UNL business education project spoke to the teachers about specialized instructional materials in office education.

Margaret Johnson, UNL professor, developed a program where her students developed secretarial work projects with the cooperation of Lincoln secretaries. Twelve work projects and film strips were developed.

Clout and how to get it

Women discuss politics

By Theresa Forsman

Lincoln Mayor Helen Boosalis told approximately 50 women Saturday that they are just as qualified as men to hold political office.

Addressing a women's political symposium at the Nebraska Center for Continuing Education, Boosalis quoted 1972 Democratic vice presidential nominee Francis "Cissy" Farenthold, who said that true political equality will come to the United States when a totally unqualified female has the opportunity to take her place in the political arena next to the totally unqualified male.

The one-day symposium, entitled "Everywoman's Guide to Politics and Influence—Clout and How to Get It," featured several Lincoln female office holders.

The speakers told women not to be defensive when asked about their qualifications for holding political office.

"If you've got doubts about your qualifications, go look at your government," said Kandra Hahn, clerk of the district court.

Desire needed

She said the most important asset an office holder can have is the desire to get something done for the community.

Jan Gauger, Lancaster County commissioner, agreed.

"For some odd reason, if a man puts down that he's sold insurance for 20 years,

everyone is impressed with his qualification to hold office," she said.

Women should not blame discrimination for the lopsided male/female ratio on political offices, Hahn said.

Gauger said the low percentage of female officeholders is a result of a low percentage of candidates.

"More women will be elected when more women run," she said.

No advantage

The speakers agreed that neither men nor women are inherently better politicians. Both men and women can be corrupted, Boosalis said.

Boosalis gave symposium participants guidelines to test their qualification for office which she said apply to both men and women office seekers. These include:

- A genuine interest in the governmental process.
- A knowledge of the office the candidate is seeking.
- Good communication skills.
- Non-abrasive assertiveness.
- Willingness and ability to get along with others.
- Preparation and experience.
- Drive and hard work.
- An ability to accept criticism.

Hahn cautioned women seeking political office to pick the office they run for carefully.

"You're not out to be a martyr," she said, "you're out to get elected."

Police review board posts

Mayor wants objectivity

Lincoln Mayor Helen Boosalis said she received "in the neighborhood of 40" names and resumes before the weekend cutoff date for applications for positions to the city's Police Review Board.

Along with their names and resumes, applicants had to submit reasons for wanting to be on the board, Boosalis said. "This is more than the usual selection process," she said.

The mayor said she is concerned about appointing what she called an objective, seven-member board. She said she does not want the board to be a means for "harassing the Police Dept."

The Police Review Board will comprise a "representative group of citizens," to act on complaints about police matters, Boosalis said.

Citizen complaints on police matters first will be filed in the county clerk's office, she said. The Police Dept. then will have a chance to respond to the complaints. After that, the board is to meet within 10 days to decide if the department's response in the matter is satisfactory, the mayor said.

The board will review, investigate, and make recommendations on the matter to the Police Dept. From there, the department can decide if the matter calls for a hearing or any further action, Boosalis said. Final recommendations to act will come from the mayor and the City Council.

Boosalis said she will announce the appointees to the board "in a couple of weeks." The City Council then must approve the list.

New major is offered

Architecture, economics, geography, sociology and English are among the courses offered in a new major in the College of Arts and Sciences.

The Urban Studies major is designed to "equip students with a wider intellectual and interdependent perspective to urban phenomena," according to the approved proposal by a UNL Urban Studies committee headed by Jack Siegman, associate professor of sociology.

Selected courses from 14 departments are offered in the 36-hour major.

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