

World trade called unfair to poor nations

Relationships between rich industrial nations and poorer developing countries are unfair in the current world trade system, according to James Howe, senior fellow with the Overseas Development Council.

Howe said the council is a foundation-supported "think tank" which considers the relationships between rich and poor countries, the world food supply, hunger and whether or not the world trade and investment systems now are fair to the poorer nations.

Before joining the council, Howe worked for the U.S. State Dept., Navy Dept., Bureau of the Budget, Central Planning Office and in United States Operations Missions (AID) to Vietnam, Brazil, Latin America and East Africa.

Nations condemned

Howe, a 1944 NU graduate, said industrial nations are willing to buy raw

materials from the developing nations of Africa, Asia and Latin America, but want to process them themselves and market the finished product.

When developing nations try to sell processed goods, the industrial countries raise high tariff barriers, thus condemning poorer nations to supplying only raw materials, he said.

Howe said a proposal for a change in the world trade order made last month by Secretary of State Henry Kissinger "represents a basic change in the U.S. response" to the poorer nations.

Kissinger's proposal asks that the United States buy more processed goods from developing nations and encourage other countries to do so, he said. If there is a drop in the world market price for the products the developing nations sell, they could ask the International Monetary Fund for a compensatory loan.

Howe said Kissinger's proposals "went some direction in what they (the developing nations) want."

"It didn't give anything away, just said that we will negotiate," Howe said.

Howe, who attended the signing of the United Nations charter in 1945, said the U.N. gets "heavily into economic matters and social and economic questions" such as health, education and world nutrition and has served an "invaluable purpose" in those areas.

Whether the U.S. will be hurt by last week's approval of a resolution equating Zionism with racism "is largely up to the U.S.," the U.N.'s major financier, he said.

Howe said the American threat to take steps against the U.N. or each country separately if the Zionism resolution was approved forced third-world nations to vote for the resolution or appear to bend to U.S. pressure.



Photo courtesy UNL
James Howe, senior fellow with the Overseas Development Council

Architect: experience helps

Architecture students are sharp, keen and aware of their field, said Nancy Stark, a 1966 UNL graduate.

"There is really a freshness about the freshmen—no pun intended," Stark said.

She suggested areas such as photography, design graphics or technical design as alternatives to regular architecture practice.

"I am a strong believer that experience is your best teacher," Stark said, so she went to Stockholm, Sweden, where she helped design a multi-million dollar shopping center.

She now works at a Minneapolis, Minn., firm designing medical centers.

She said her education at UNL made her proficient in the basic architecture skills and the technical training was excellent, because of what she called a progressive faculty.

"Architecture here has always been strong," she said. "And I think it's even stronger now that it is out from under the jurisdiction of the College of Engineering (and Technology)."

Grad was alone composing

Before Eugene O'Brien was graduated from the UNL School of Music in 1969 he was a "big fish in a little pond."

O'Brien, a composer, said that when he attended UNL, the School of Music offered no composition degree and he was left to compose as he pleased.

It was easy to hear student performances of his compositions because he was the only composition student at UNL, he said.

"I could take off on my own. That's what I needed," O'Brien said.

After graduating from UNL, O'Brien studied in Cologne, Germany on a Ful-

bright grant, at Indiana University and at the American Academy in Rome. He now teaches and composes at the Cleveland Institute of Music.

"Although I think music should communicate, I'm not always aware of exactly what my music communicates," he said.

O'Brien said the best advice he can offer to music students is "Do those things you like to and to do the very best you possibly can."

He said the UNL School of Music is becoming one of the better state university music schools in the country.

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