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# Ervin praises five freedoms

By Joe Hudson

Former Democratic Sen. Sam Ervin of North Carolina Tuesday night charmed a standing-room only Nebraska Union Centennial Ballroom crowd with anecdotes uttered in a southern drawl, then preached a serious message of individual freedom.

The former chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Presidential Campaign Practices also fielded questions on a variety of topics before and after the 7 p.m. speech.

Praising Thomas Jefferson and the framers of the constitution, Ervin outlined five freedoms he said were designed to guarantee the pursuit of happiness.

He listed economic, personal, political, intellectual and spiritual freedom as guarantees for man's pursuit of happiness.

Defending his stand against the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA), Ervin called it "totally unnecessary" because of already existing laws and court decisions. Instead of making new laws, the existing ones should be enforced, he said.

He said ERA would destroy a women's right to be supported by her husband while she is raising a family, if she chooses to do so.

Ervin also blasted Senate Bil 1, a massive criminal code revision bill being considered by Congress, saying it would protect Watergate-type offenders.

"If we make ignorance of the law a defense, you don't want to make it a shelter for those who are supposed to know the most about the law," Ervin said.

During Watergate hearings, he said, presidential counsel John Dean offered the most truthful information, but aid Alexander Butterfield's testimony about the Nixon tapes was the "most devastating information."

Pres. Gerald Ford's pardon of Nixon was "a grave mistake," Ervin said. He called presidential pardoning power "greater than that of the Almighty. The Almighty cannot forgive sins unless we first admit that we've committed them."



Photo by Ted Kirk

Former United States Sen. Sam Ervin (D.-N.C.) addressed an overflow crowd in the Nebraska Union Centennial Ballroom Thursday night.

Ervin also offered his opinion on these other topics: Gag rule -- Ervin said all court proceedings should remain open, and that jurors are intelligent enough to base their decisions on court proceedings alone, despite what they have read in newspapers.

New York City -- Ervin said these "wreckless people"

should be allowed to "stew in their own juice for a little while."

Detente -- United States' detente is a "one way street" in the Soviet Union's favor, he said. The United States is "running up a white flag" to the Soviets, who are naturally "very agreeable" to the situation.

# First round approval given September primaries

By Dick Piersol

The Nebraska Legislature gave first stage approval Thursday to a bill which would move state primary elections from May to September beginning in 1980. The vote to advance Ralston Sen. Gerald Koch's LB 120, held over on general file from the last session, was 25-22.

Before advancing the bill, the senators amended it to

remove a provision allowing registered independent voters to use either major party ballot presidential and state primary elections.

The bill does not allow voters registered as Democrats or Republicans to select the other party's ballot and retains the May presidential primary election.

Sens. Wally Barnett of Lincoln and Robert Clark of

Sidney argued that allowing independent voters to vote on partisan primary ballots would destroy the two-party system. Blair Sen. Walter George said both the Young Republicans and Young Democrats oppose it.

Utica Sen. Douglas Bereuter said allowing independents to vote on either ballot would strengthen the two-party system by forcing the parties to offer strong slates of candidates to attract what he termed the large numbers of young, independent voters. He said political parties are the only institutions with worse reputations than politicians.

Big Springs Sen. Jack Mills said there were senators who would oppose independent primary voting because they may run for a major partisan office in the future.

Omaha Sen. Ernest Chambers said the two-party system was not a provision of the constitution and not allowing independents, like himself, to vote on partisan primary ballots disenfranchised them.

"There's not a dime's worth of difference between the demagogues and republicans," Chambers said.

Omaha Sen. John Cavanaugh said political parties are membership organizations and there is no reason to allow non-members to help select candidates. He opposed moving the state primary election to September, saying a two-month campaign between primary and general elections would give an advantage to more familiar and well-heeled candidates.

Koch argued that May through November campaigns are too long and expensive and contributed to "lame duck" action for more than half-a-year by incumbents beaten in the May primary election.

The vote on Bellevue Sen. Frank Lewis' amendment to LB 120, removing the provision allowing registered independent voters to vote on partisan primary ballots, is as follows:

For: Anderson, Barnett, Bereuter, Carsten, Cavanaugh, Clark, Dickinson, Duis, Dworak, Fitzgerald, George, Goodrich, Johnson, Kelly, Kennedy, Ledtka, Mahoney, Marsh, Marvel, Murphy, Nichol, Simpson, Skarda, Stull, Swigart, Syas, Warner, Wiltsie.

Against: Burrows, Chambers, Hasebroock, Koch, Marash, Mills, Stoney.

Not voting: Burbach, Cope, DeCamp, Fowler, Keyes, Kime, Kermer, Lewis, F., Lewis, R., Moylan, Rasmussen, Rumery, Savage, Schmit.

The vote to advance LB 120 on its way to select file is as follows:

For: Anderson, Barnett, Bereuter, Carsten, Chambers, Clark, Dworak, Fitzgerald, George, Goodrich, Kelly, Koch, R. Lewis, F., Lewis, R., Mahoney, Marvel, Mills, Rasmussen, Savage, Schmit, Skarda, Stoney, Swigart, Syas, Warner.

Against: Burbach, Burrows, Cavanaugh, Cope, DeCamp, Dickinson, Duis, Fowler, Hasebroock, Johnson, Kennedy, Keyes, Marash, Marsh, Moylan, Nichol, Rumery, Simpson, Stull, Wiltsie. Not voting: Kime, Murphy.

# NU gets fourth in Big 8 budgets; resident tuition and fees highest

By Ron Ruggless

UNL's budget, including state and tuition support, is \$5.6 million below the average of the top three Big 8 Conference schools, according to a report submitted Thursday to the Governor's Commission on University Funding.

It was the final meeting of the 15-member commission, set up to tell the governor the university's standing among Big 8 school budgets.

NU President D.B. Varner said \$5.6 million "is the most reasonable" figure because it includes both non-resident and resident tuition.

NU's \$663 average full-time resident tuition and student fee rate is the highest among Big 8 universities, Varner said, and UNL students pick up 25 per cent of their education bill.

State support to UNL, he said, is about \$6.5 million below the average of the top three Big 8 schools.

### Money for competition

"It is important that the university be able to compete with comparable institutions," Varner said, which requires money to hire and keep good teachers and programs.

Varner also said NU's two-semester \$123 student fee is the second highest in the Big 8 system, following Kansas's \$166 for two semesters.

Commission Chairman Gustave Lieske calculated a 10.7 per cent tuition increase if Nebraska's budget were to compete with the top three Big 8 schools.

Varner said, "I think the students would not be negative to aiding in the process of closing the gap (between NU and the top Big 8 schools)," but added he does not think the student should pay more than 25

per cent of his higher education costs.

"The 25 to 75 per cent state financing level is reasonably realistic," he said, as NU is a land-grant university which should provide higher education to as many people as possible.

Efforts should be made to close the budget gap between NU and other universities within one or two years, Varner said.

Willard Waldo, chairman of the commission's subcommittee investigating the UNL Agriculture College's standing among Big 8 universities, said NU needs an additional \$5 million to \$7 million to catch up with the top three Big 8 schools.

### Bottom of Big 8

"The budget being proposed would still put it (Agriculture College) at the bottom of the Big 8," Waldo said.

Nebraska has the potential to be a leader in the agriculture area, he said, but financing is lacking.

The commission's report on the standing of the University of Nebraska Medical Center among Big 8 universities was not accepted because an addition will be added over the weekend, Lieske said.

Additional comments will be made by commission members, Lieske said, and the final report should be submitted to Gov. J. James Exon by Thursday.

Lieske said he thinks Exon should appoint 20 to 25 prominent citizens to a coordinating commission to evaluate NU programs.

NU needs \$4 million in additional nonresident tuition and state support to bring it to a competitive level in the Big 8, Lieske said.