



Crib goes to paper, plastic

Friday was the preview of something to come in the Nebraska Union Crib. The usual china bowls and plates were replaced with paper and plastic.

The switch was the result of repairs on the dishwashing machine, according to Bob Richeson, assistant director of the Nebraska Union in charge of food service.

However, on March 29 all china in the Crib will be replaced, in an experiment to see if paper and/or plastic dishes and silverware are feasible, Richeson said. The experiment will last until the end of the spring semester, he said. Increased labor and china costs are reasons for the experiment, Richeson said.

The Crib now has a problem with adequate busing of used dishes, he said. Throw-away dishes might alleviate part of the table-clearing problem, he said.

Richeson also added that paper dishes and plastic silverware might cost less than china.

The Union now spends about \$1,800 a year on silverware and about \$5,100 on china, he said. Most of the cost is because of loss and breakage, he added.

"We seem to outfit a lot of apartments and rooms with china and silverware each year," he said.

The Union may be able to recycle the paper, Richeson said, adding that if recycling were possible he would make the paper available for it.

Whether the experiment is successful will depend on labor and cost savings, acceptability by customers and increased cleanliness of the Crib, he said.

This never has been done on a large scale in the Union, Richeson said. However, he added that most university unions now use paper dishes.

Bill would reinstate Lord's Prayer, Pledge of Allegiance to classrooms

By Dana Green

A proposal to return the Pledge of Allegiance and the Lord's Prayer to Nebraska public schools will be reviewed today during the Nebraska Legislature's Educational Committee hearing.

LB816, introduced by Omaha Sen. Warren Swigart, would allow public school students to voluntarily say the Lord's Prayer or the Pledge of Allegiance. Swigart said teachers would inform students that neither are mandatory, and that no one would be "singled out or made to feel uncomfortable should he choose not to say the pledge or prayer."

Swigart said he thought the pledge and prayer should be reinstated in conjunction with the Bicentennial.

"I feel that this would influence our young people to go back to the basic beliefs and foundations of our forefathers," Swigart said.

He said LB816 would allow students to "learn of our great freedoms, which include the freedom of religion and are symbolized by the recitation of the Lord's Prayer."

"This is not meant to influence individual beliefs," said Swigart. "However, our Constitution states that we shall

not 'interfere with the exercise thereof' (religion), and we're denying those students who want the opportunity to say the Lord's Prayer."

LB816 was read first in committee Jan. 19, Swigart said. He said he expected no major opposition and that he has received mail from people statewide who support the bill.

However, Bellevue Sen. Frank Lewis, educational committee chairman, views the bill dimly.

"It's unconstitutional," said Lewis, a Bellevue high school teacher. "It's a waste of school time and of the taxpayer's money."

Lewis was not as optimistic as Swigart and said he did not think the bill would pass committee.

Sen. George Burrows of Adams said he had "no real feel" for the bill. Burrows, an Education Committee member, said he had not discussed the bill with other senators because he didn't view it as a major issue.

"I don't personally see anything objectionable in the bill," Burrows said. "I doubt if it will have any deep implications on the schools. However, it may go against the idea of separation of church and state."

Advice offered on food stamps

A short, but high-powered campaign to educate people about food stamp eligibility will start March 1, according to Barb Klein, a Lincoln Action Group worker.

The Lincoln Action Group, a federally financed organization, is sponsoring the Lincoln campaign, which will last five weeks, Klein said.

The first four weeks will involve an extensive publicity effort, she said. Posters will be placed in grocery stores advising people of the program and Action Group workers are asking grocery stores to put fliers in sacks of groceries.

Radio stations also are playing food stamp jingles, she said.

There are about 8,000 people now on the food stamp program in Lincoln, Klein said, adding that this represents only about one third of those eligible.

Pre-screening centers will be established during the final week (March 29) in low-income areas where people can find out if they qualify for food stamps. If so, they can complete applications, she said.

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