

## House candidates' issues are busing, grain, government

By Joe Hudson and George Miller

Grain sales, busing and big government are among the issues that candidates jousting for Nebraska's three Congressional seats stressed in their primary campaigns.

The field of eleven candidates will be trimmed to six after the primary elections and three of those six aspirants already are assured of a victory May 11.

Candidates for the First Congressional District seat will not have to worry about the primary since both Republican incumbent Charles Thone, 51, and Democratic challenger Pauline Anderson, 56, are unopposed on the ballot. They will face each other for the spot in November.

Thone, running for his fourth term in the House, said the basic campaign issue was "whether or not I've done a good job," while Anderson stressed bread and butter issues such as inflation and unemployment.

She said that Thone has been "a good mechanic" during his six years in Washington, D.C., but that he has lacked imagination and innovation.

Thone, on the other hand, said he thinks his record meets his constituents' approval.

He pointed to his work on the House Agriculture Committee and what he called his role as farmers' spokesman as reasons to be re-elected.

### Wheat exports essential

Thone said he thinks international grain deals, including wheat sales to the Soviet Union, benefited farmers of both large and small farms.

"Exports are essential to our prosperity," Thone said. "It would be a catastrophe if they were taken out of the picture."

If grain was not exported, Thone said, the resulting surplus would lower market prices.

He said the United States exported \$12 billion more than it imported, more than paying for oil imports.

Anderson, however, said there was "a great deal of resentment in the agricultural community about some of the grain deals being made." She said she would encourage an agriculture policy that ensured a fair return for the grain producer and also a stable export market.

Anderson favors the federal office negotiating international food export and import deals. Such an agency should have an advisory board of farmers to establish negotiating guidelines she said.

### University financing

Regarding universities, Anderson said state funds and student tuitions should finance basic university functions, such as faculty salaries and operating costs, while federal funds should pay for research and loans to low-income students.

Thone said he has introduced a bill in the House that would allow income tax deductions for higher education costs.

The bill is directed toward middle-income groups, he said.

Both candidates said they would not tailor their campaigns to get the student vote.

The student vote is there, Thone said, but it will not make the difference between winning and losing in the First District. Anderson agreed.

She said the 18 to 24-year-old vote in recent years has been far below the average of other voting-age groups.

"Young people basically are trying to get prepared for the future," and often are not concerned enough with politics to vote, she said.

### Personal campaign

Anderson said this summer she and her husband, UNL history professor Albin Anderson, will travel the district in a mobile home to "take the campaign to where the people are."

She said when fall classes resume, she will concentrate on Lincoln.

Thone said he will continue his half-day "work sessions" around the district, in which he has pumped gas, bagged groceries in super markets and farmed.

"It's an awful good way to get closer to people," Thone said.

He said he also will try to walk the streets of each town in the district.

### No dramatic difference

Omaha City Councilman Monte Taylor, one of four Republicans running for the Second District seat, described the race by saying: "There isn't a dramatic difference on major issues. It just seems to be a question of who's most qualified for the job."

Lee Terry, P.J. Morgan and Joe B. Moss join Taylor in the Republican primary. Omaha State Sen. John

Cavanaugh is the only Democrat running.

Terry, former TV news anchorman, stressed the busing issue. Busing causes suspicion and dissention among races, he said, instead of integration.

He proposed allowing students to attend the school of their choice.

Douglas County Commissioner Morgan, a former state senator, noted his record of budget trimming and "significant contributions in mental health and mental retardation."

### Number of yard signs

"But in politics," said Morgan, 36, "people tend to look at the number of yard signs and television appearances."

In addition to three years as Omaha city councilman, Taylor also was Douglas County election commissioner for three years.

Taylor, 44, said integration can be achieved by enforcing equal employment opportunity and fair housing laws. He also said government should justify its programs and regulations before continuing its spending.

State Sen. John Cavanaugh, the only Democrat to file for the seat, criticized Republican economic theories.

"All you hear them talking about is getting rid of government," said Cavanaugh, 30. "But you never hear them talk about specifics."

The four-year veteran of the Nebraska Legislature also said it is "perfectly appropriate" for universities to comply with federal grant restrictions, "when some national need has been determined."

### General grant aid

Cavanaugh also would like to see "some general (block) grant aid to higher institutions. But I wouldn't like to see federal funding of universities on a national basis."

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Moss, a Western Electric employee, could not be reached for comment.

The three men vying for incumbent Virginia Smith's Third District seat all claim they can exert more influence in Congress than Smith has during her year and a half in Washington, D. C.

But Smith, 62, of Chappell, says she has been effective in "reflecting the philosophy of Nebraska."

Neleigh State Sen. John DeCamp, 34, will challenge Smith for the Republican slot on the November ballot.

Holly Hodge of Holdrege and James Hansen of Gering are battling for the Democratic position.

"Virginia and I basically are both thinking the same and working in the same direction," DeCamp said. "But I can get it done — she can't." He said his influence in the Legislature, along with his work in Operation Babylift during the Vietnam evacuation, are proof of his effective-


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### Key roles

Smith said she has played key roles in attempts to raise the estate tax exemption, stop the closing of small town post offices, tighten the inspection and labeling of imported beef and limit the jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

All candidates agreed Smith has done an "excellent job" reporting to her outstate constituents.

**Federal grants may be "becoming an end in themselves, rather than a means to accomplish certain goals."**

Each candidate opposed limiting international grain sales.

"I am absolutely opposed to any government intervention in the market," Smith said, and actions such as AFL-CIO President George Meany's pressure on the President to get a grain embargo.

Hodge, a 46-year-old farmer active in several agricultural associations, criticized the administration's grain policy, saying the grain embargo costs farmers "several billion dollars" in lost sales.

Hodge said his "many contacts in the United States Department of Agriculture," give him enough influence to "do a better job" than Smith.

### End in themselves

Concerning higher education, Smith said the federal government should distribute most of its grants in block form, giving more control to state and local governments.

DeCamp warned that federal grants may be "becoming an end in themselves, rather than a means to accomplish certain goals."

Each candidate criticized the influence and size of the federal government.

"We must choose priorities that we want the government to take on," Hansen said.

A 32-year-old Scotts Bluff County public defender, Hansen said he favors a "strong energy conservation program," the study of wind and solar energy, along with a plan to conserve water in Western Nebraska.

Challenging DeCamp's support of a proposed coal slurry from Wyoming to Arkansas, Hansen charged the slurry would use water from Wyoming that normally flows into Nebraska.

While three candidates expressed optimism about their campaigns, DeCamp voiced some apprehension.

"I'm up against one of the best greased, financed and organized political machines that exists," DeCamp said. "I'm not really running against Virginia Smith; she is the smallest cog in the machine. It will be extremely hard to win."

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