

Coleman compares 'ethnic purity,' Butz remarks

By Paula Dittick

William Coleman, Jr., U.S. secretary of transportation, said he found Earl Butz's racial comments no worse than Democratic presidential candidate Jimmy Carter's comments about ethnic purity.

During a question and answer session following his speech Wednesday in the Nebraska Union Ballroom, Coleman asked UNL students if they also hadn't told ethnic jokes.

Coleman said President Gerald Ford has indicated that he doesn't tolerate racism. Four days passed from the time of Ford's knowledge of Butz's remarks until Butz's resignation.

Calling this a "very short time" in the federal establishment, Coleman said Ford ought to get high marks. He added that 21 per cent of the federal establishment consists of minority members.

Coleman has been active in the civil rights movement, working with the legal defense fund of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and helping write the brief in the Supreme Court decision that overthrew the separate-but-equal segregation ruling.

Trial period approved

Appointed transportation secretary in 1975, Coleman decided the U.S. would allow the Franco-British supersonic jet (SST Concorde) to land in Washington, D.C., and New York City for a trial period.

Coleman said SST production was stopped in the U.S. because some persons thought money should not be invested in something they said would only serve the rich.

"Now the British and French are investing the dollars while we're learning the technology. What I did was consistent with the legislature's ruling," said Coleman.

Saying he felt it was important to restore confidence in the federal government, Coleman added that the Ford administration hasn't dictated to federal departments.

"Since the time of Franklin Roosevelt, there is more independence and more freedom among Cabinet officials than there has ever been in Washington," Coleman said.

Research, careers discussed

Coleman met with about 12 UNL faculty members and said his department wanted to see more of what he called unbiased research work coming from universities, according to UNL Chancellor Roy Young.

Young said Coleman expressed an interest in student

awareness of career opportunities within the government.

The federal government is spreading out, and more government employes are coming to campuses, Young said. He added that students also benefit from research directed for federal governments.

Instructors qualified to advise the federal government have to be expert in their fields and this expertise is

helpful to the student, Young added.

Coleman's Lincoln visit was sponsored by the Lincoln Chamber of Commerce and the UNL College of Business Administration's Executive-in-Residence program.

Coleman also spoke at a luncheon at the Lincoln Hilton Hotel sponsored by the Lincoln Transportation Club.



Photo by Ted Kirk

U.S. Secretary of Transportation William Coleman.

Graduate senator walks out of ASUN meeting

ASUN adopted two resolutions and confirmed three senate nominations Wednesday night in a meeting marred by procedural squabbles.

The procedural squabbles began when three new senators were confirmed and sworn in before roll was called. As roll was being called, graduate senator Frank Thompson objected.

"How can you vote to confirm these people without a quorum?" Thompson said. "I want it stated in last week's and this week's minutes that I didn't participate in the election," he said. "I'll probably take this to student court."

First Vice-President Tony Williams responded, "The first thing we did was to count to see if there was a quorum. That's the first thing a government body does," he said.

Thompson picked up his coat and walked out. The roll continued, 24 senators were present, enough for a quorum.

Two weeks ago, ASUN minutes show, Ted McConnell was nominated and confirmed as a business senator and Steve Wiley was confirmed as an engineering senator. Both actions were taken before roll was called.

The new senators confirmed last night were Colleen Shanahan, business, Scott Cook, Arts and Sciences, and Lyle George, agriculture.

One resolution acted on by ASUN was to grant a 180-day operating permit to any group wishing to campaign on campus for a political candidate. The ASUN constitution requires a student group file a constitution with ASUN before operating on campus. The resolution was designed to get around this constitutional clause. The resolution as originally passed two weeks ago would have granted a 90-day operating permit, but was vetoed last week by ASUN President Bill Mueller because it was determined that 90 days would not be enough time.

The Senate felt that 180 days was not enough time either, and through a friendly amendment the length was extended to 240 days.

The new resolution also would have enabled groups granted a permit to use "all the financial services available to fully recognized groups."

"Would this mean that these groups could request student fees like other student organizations?" Cook, the newly-appointed senator asked.

"No, they would just be eligible to use student banking

services," said senator Libby Swanson. It was noted that it is illegal to use student fees for an outside election campaign, and a friendly amendment was tacked onto the resolution changing "financial" to "banking."

"But if it says that, then the groups won't be able to sell buttons and bumper stickers," said senator Ken Christoffersen. "Banking" was changed back to "financial", and the resolution was adopted.

Ken Mareinau, ASUN-Residence Hall Association liaison, presented a resolution calling for a parking lot south of the Coliseum. The resolution also asks that the number of Area 1 to 5 parking permits sold be equal to the number of spaces available. The resolution was passed by Residence Hall Association (RHA) last week.

Mareinau said new lots scheduled to be constructed along 19th street will add 120-130 parking places, but said there will still be an overall problem.

Mareinau said most living units have passed variations of the RHA resolution, and all seem to agree that the Campus Police should not be overselling the lots.

"We want to have the right rather than the privilege to park," he said. "We want to limit the number of parking permits to the number of spaces available."

Viewers persist despite yawns over first debate

By Janet Fix

Despite what some called the boredom of the first presidential candidates' debate, several students questioned in an informal survey Wednesday afternoon said they planned to watch Wednesday night's debate.

In the debate, candidates Jimmy Carter and Gerald Ford discussed foreign and defense policy. Both candidates had claimed victory after the first debate over domestic and economic issues.

Analysis of the second debate was unavailable at publication time.

Most students said they watched the first and would watch the second because they were undecided about who they would vote for and wanted to see what each candidate would say.

Jim Harris, a senior engineering major, said he was interested in what each candidate had to say and how they would present their positions.

Last minutes best

"I thought the last debate was interesting, especially the last 27 minutes," he said. Audio during the first debate was interrupted for 27 minutes.

Senior Doug Kristensen, Interfraternity Council president and political science major, said he watched because, "I'm highly interested in the outcome."

Tom Diehm, a Union Program Council (UPC) member, said he planned to watch the second forum because he missed the first.

The resignation Monday of Earl Butz as U.S. Secretary of Agriculture encouraged additional interest in the second debate, according to some students.

Joe Stavas, a senior and ASUN second vice president, said, "I'm interested to hear how Carter incorporates his slur on Earl Butz and his involvement in the Russian grain deal."

Mark Harrington, a junior majoring in business, also said he was interested in the second debate because of Butz's resignation.

"It promises to be interesting," Harrington said. "I'm sure Carter will have something to say about Butz."

Amy Trimble, a junior psychology major, said she would watch Ford when he commented on Butz during the forum.

Body language

"I believe you can tell as much about a man by his

body language as by what he says," Trimble said. "I think I will probably vote for Carter because anyone who thinks that he (Ford) is losing one of his greatest men, and is losing a man who loves America (Butz), doesn't have it together."

Clint Thute, a sophomore criminal justice major who said he supported Ford, wanted to hear what Ford had to say.

"And more importantly, will Carter doesn't have to say," Thute said. "I don't think Carter ever has anything to say."

Only one student questioned admitted that he did not plan to watch the debate.

John Valinch, a UPC member and co-chairman of the upcoming Power and Conspiracy in America Symposium, said he had no interest in either candidate.

"I saw the first debate and found it dull," said Valinch, a senior integrated studies major. "Both candidates looked kind of comical and rigid. They looked like mannequins and it made me wonder if they really had legs behind the podium."

Valinch said he probably would vote for independent candidate Eugene McCarthy.