

# Chief says new jail is solution

By Paula Dittrick

Many city officials and employees agree with Lincoln Police Chief George Hansen that the County-City Bldg. has "structural problems."

The disagreement centers upon the proposed solutions to those problems, especially regarding the jail situation.

Hansen said the only solution would be a new building. Compared with other jails, his rating of the Lincoln jail "on a one to 10 scale would be about a two."

A jail committee appointed by the mayor and the Lancaster County Board has recommended another building be used in conjunction with the County-City Bldg. jail.

### Short-term holding

"We didn't recommend complete abandonment but suggested the jail be used for short-term holding," said committee chairwoman Elaine Carpenter. The committee suggested another building be used for long-term prisoner confinement.

A building commission appointed to study the County-City Bldg. space problems recommends more space be given to the police department within the existing buildings.

Commission chairwoman Annette Marquez said this could be done by moving an adjoining office from the County-City Bldg.

Marquez said the commission realizes the jail's problems, but doesn't think the city can afford a new jail building. She said if the jail were moved from the building this space could be used only for storage.

Marquez said the jail was designed for 48 hour confinement. Hansen said some prisoners are kept in jail for as long as nine months. He said the 130-person capacity jail now holds about 100 prisoners.

Hansen said the jail has no exercise area nor any natural light.

### Poor ventilation

Calling the air ventilation poor, he said the only way to clear the smoke after an inmate sets a mattress on fire is to blow the smoke out the front office with big exhaust fans.

Hansen said another problem is that people visiting the accessible records bureau on first floor after business hours must take the elevator used to transport prisoners.

Mayor Helen Boosalis said juvenile confinement is a problem because juveniles must be kept separate from

adult prisoners. The jail wasn't designed for separate confinement areas.

Boosalis suggested improvements should be made at the County-City Bldg. which she said is about 7 years old.

Marquez said some offices have been moved from the building because of office expansions and the creation of new departments.

### Remodeling planned

She predicted that the building will house only lawyers and judges in 10 years. "Extensive remodeling" of the building is planned to help the space problems, Marquez said.

The space allocation study found more space is needed now than was originally planned when the building was constructed, Marquez said.

Agreeing that some space reassignment is needed, Boosalis said the extent isn't known and she "is not convinced that all the anticipated needs will be realized."

She said she hasn't accepted the projected claims about the building's future because she hasn't seen evidence to warrant those claims.

Boosalis said the city is housing some offices in part of the Federal Bldg., formerly used as a post office on O St. between 9th and 10th streets.

She said this also is the proposed site for a performing arts center.



Photo by Ted Kirk

UNL Homecoming Queen Nancy Peck of Tekamah received her crown during halftime Saturday at the UNL-Kansas State University football game. Peck, a junior, is a music major in Teachers College and a member of Alpha Omicron Pi sorority. Crowned homecoming king was Kevin Meyer of Beatrice, a junior business major and a member of Theta Xi fraternity.

# Gasohol plan may be proposed

Legislation creating a check-off program to support construction of a grain alcohol plant in Nebraska is likely to be introduced in the next session of the Nebraska Legislature, according to William Scheller, UNL Chemical Engineering Dept. chairman.

The alcohol would be used for gasohol, a mixture of 90 per cent gasoline and 10 per cent grain alcohol. If legislation is passed early in January 1977, then it is possible that a grain alcohol plant could be operating in 1979, Scheller said. No site has been designated for the proposed plant.

The check-off program was discussed at an Oct. 6 Gasohol Committee meeting. Proposed in September by Bellwood Sen. Loran Schmit, the Unicameral's Agricultural Committee chairman, the check-off plan calls for a levy of about two cents a bushel on grain sold in the state. The levy would apply only to the first sale of the grain, for instance, when a farmer sells grain to an elevator. In that respect, it would be similar to current programs in Nebraska involving soybeans and wheat.

But the gasohol check-off plan would differ in one major point. It would be voluntary. Any person who doesn't wish to participate could file for a refund, Scheller said.

Sheller is UNL's technical advisor to the Gasohol Committee. The technical adviser position was required when the committee was established by the Legislature in 1971. The seven committee members are four farmers, two businessmen and an oil company representative.

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