

Letter analyzes NU's higher education needs

By Paula Dittrick

Nebraska's colleges draw a high level of tax support leaving "other state programs starved," according to Harlow Hyde, State Dept. of Public Institutions budget analyst.

Hyde wrote a 10-page letter which he said he sent to all state senators last Monday and Tuesday. He said he initiated the letter on his own, using neither state time nor state money.

Calling his letter "an attempt to provide an analysis" of Nebraska's needs regarding higher education, Hyde said he questions the necessity of NU's programs.

"Why have we developed extensive graduate programs for which no employment market exists in Nebraska for the students upon graduation?" he said.

Hyde said he knew of two nonresident graduates who received PH.D.s from NU, in psychology and English literature, neither of which found a job in their degree field in Nebraska.

Hyde said he did not know what NU programs should be eliminated or added, but he suggested the higher education curriculum meet the state's job market and rate of population growth.

NU should study curriculum

Hyde, a South Dakota native, who received a degree in business from the University of South Dakota, said South Dakota made such a curriculum study and he suggests Nebraska make a similar survey.

"Nebraska colleges don't know what being hard-up is until they visit South Dakota colleges," he said.

"The (NU Board of) Regents seem to approve everything and the Legislature seconds it," Hyde said.

Lincoln Regent Ed Schwartzkopf declined to comment until he had seen a copy of the letter.

Hyde said although he had not sent copies of the letter to NU officials, he would do so upon their request.

Schwartzkopf said William Swanson, NU Corporation secretary and university lobbyist, Friday talked to several senators who had not yet received copies of the letter.

Support increased

In his letter, Hyde said Nebraska's higher education support has increased 199 per cent over the last 10 years, quoting the October issue of the *Chronicle of Higher Education*.

"It is quite reasonable to contend that Nebraska's increases for higher education over the past 10 years have been the absolute highest in the nation, when considering the population growth," Hyde wrote.

He said nonresident students using Nebraska scholarships do not plan to stay in the state after graduation.

Their education "contributes nothing to the state," he charged.

Hyde said that of 10 Midwestern universities, seven charge higher resident tuition rates than NU and eight of them charge higher nonresident rates.

Predicts decreased enrollment

He quoted a 1976 study by NU's Business Research Bureau and the Nebraska Office of Planning and Pro-

gramming predicting "decreased enrollments for higher education in the near future."

Suggesting "a moratorium of new building for higher education," Hyde called NU's request for capital improvement funds "the biggest snow job I've ever heard of."

Hyde said a proposed \$10 million NU cardiovascular center "doesn't make sense as far as priorities" are concerned. He added that NU should concentrate on staffing more Nebraska counties with doctors before building such a center.

He accused the press of sensationalizing his intentions. Hyde said he won't "carry on a hate campaign," but said he thought he should express his opinion.

Legislative hearings begin today

Committee hearings begin today on more than 200 bills introduced so far in the 90th session of the Nebraska Legislature.

Hearings cannot begin for five days after they are set. Senators began introducing bills Jan. 6, the second day of the 1977 session.

Bills introduced include a raise in hunting fines, LB75; allowing judges to make convicted litter bugs pick up litter, LB114; creating a wholesale tax on soda pop, LB109; and prohibiting use of hollow point bullets, LB70.

LB64 proposes elimination of the death penalty; LB68 moves state and local primaries to September; LB36 allows the merger of Lincoln and Lancaster County governments; LB33 increases state aid to schools and LB90 requires photographs on driver's licenses.

LB187 proposes criminal sanctions be removed for

possession of one ounce or less of marijuana; LB165 changes the legal age for marriage from 18 for men and 16 for women to 17 for both, LB 13 designates parking for paraplegics; LB14 restricts use of the polygraph to gain employment; LB18 increases maximum rate of interest on some loans; LB50 lets those in public employment hold elective office;

LB89 provides for construction of a University of Nebraska at Omaha health building; LB105 establishes a partisan legislature; LB139 increases state gasoline tax one cent per gallon and provides for transfer of regulation of roads from state to counties; LB149 defines what shall be considered beneficial use of water.

In addition, the legislature approved a resolution, LR2, to establish Jan. 15 as Human Relations Day to commemorate the birthday of the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

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