

news digest

By The Associated Press

Health insurance

Washington—President Carter said Wednesday he hopes to propose the first phase of a national health insurance program before the end of the year. Speaking to about 500 employees selected from the 140,000 civil servants in the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, Carter said any plan will have to be phased in by what he called "a year-by-year progression toward a national health insurance system." Before the program is proposed, he said, it first will be necessary to assess what is being spent on Medicare and Medicaid and in what manner. The President stressed that "there will have to be some trade offs" because the cost of national health insurance will be high and cost controls will be necessary.

Pay raise

Washington—A Republican effort to force a recorded vote on a pay raise for members of Congress, judges and high officials was blocked in the House Wednesday. Failure of the move apparently assures that the pay raise from \$44,600 to \$57,500 in the case of senators and representatives will go into effect automatically at midnight Saturday. House Republican leader John J. Rhodes of Arizona sought unanimous consent to bring to the fore a resolution disapproving the pay raise. It was blocked by an objection from Rep. Charles H. Wilson, D-Calif. Wilson is a member of the House Post Office and Civil Service Committee which has had the disapproval resolution under consideration but has not reported it out. He has indicated his support for the pay raise.

Maiden flight

Washington—The Spacelab's first flight in orbit will carry two scientists, one from America and another from Europe, the National Aeronautics Space Administration said Wednesday. The flight in 1980 will be a week-long test of the big laboratory 155 miles above the Earth. The two scientists will work different shifts so experiments can continue 24 hours a day. Three other Americans will fly on the mission. They will be the two pilots and flight engineer who will man the U.S.-built Space Shuttle, which is to ferry the Spacelab into orbit from Cape Canaveral, Fla. The American scientist will be selected by NASA. The other scientist will be selected by the European Space Agency, an 11-nation consortium which is developing Spacelab.

Loss is gain

Omaha—Because several labor unions have agreed to work for less than the prevailing wage rates on a federally subsidized building renovation program, Omaha will be eligible for more than \$700,000 in federal rent subsidies, Mayor Robert Cunningham said Wednesday. "Sometimes it's good to give up a little to gain a lot," Cunningham said, adding that he thinks the unions deserve credit for

their foresight. The unions waived the provisions of the Davis-Bacon Act, which requires prevailing wages to be paid workers on federally financed programs, and agreed to a 15 per cent pay cut. In the projects, 200 housing units would be renovated, bringing in \$724,000 in federal rent subsidies. Renovation work is expected to start in April or May, Cunningham said, but buildings to be renovated have not been selected.

Drought meeting

Gov. J. James Exon said Wednesday he will attend a Sunday meeting in Denver to discuss the drought. Interior Secretary Cecil Andrus and Colorado Gov. Richard Lamm have invited 15 western governors to attend the session. Lamm said he believes an exchange of information among the states and between the federal government and the states would be helpful. Exon said he spoke with Lamm by telephone recently and asked about the progress of Colorado's cloud seeding program. Exon said Lamm told him the program is not going well because there are few clouds to seed. Exon also said he asked Agriculture Secretary Robert Bergland if he would be at the meeting, but Bergland said he would not be able to attend because of prior commitments.

LTS hears bus loop testimony

More than 100 people gathered in the County-City Bldg. Wednesday night to hear testimony on the Lincoln Transportation System's (LTS) controversial bus loop.

The loop, designed to take traffic off 'O' Street during the 'O' Street beautification program last summer, because effective on Aug. 2, of last year. It was to be used for a six-month trial period.

The hearing was held by the LTS Advisory Board in accordance with the City Charter. More than twenty people testified. The Board will make a recommendation to the Mayor's office next week.

The new loop comes within a block of the City campus, while the older route stopped four blocks away.

Several students told the Board that the current loop is more convenient for them, and because it is so close to the campus, they said, more students are riding.

Senior David Ware told the Board he now rides the bus "four out of five" days a week. He said he only rode "once every two weeks" with the old route.

A group of more than 50 women from the Tabitha Home in Lincoln attended the hearing. A spokeswoman for the group said that the present loop does not meet their needs well enough to suit them.

Alice Wilson, of 6132 Huntington Street, said the shelter on the present route isn't adequate.

"I've ridden the bus for 24 years," Wilson said. "But now I have to wait in front of two bars, or in a dark wooden shelter."

Ray Coffey, assistant manager of business and finance at UNL, told the Board that the present route is better in terms of conservation because more UNL people are finding it easier to ride the bus and save energy.

short stuff

Students interested in working on next year's Buzz Book and student pocket calendar should contact Mary Jo Pitzl, 472-9335 or 472-2588. Qualifications: interest and imagination—journalistic experience encouraged.

The colleges of Business Administration, Architecture, Engineering and Teachers, are looking for academic advisors to work with New Student Orientation Program this summer. The program takes place June 14 through July 15, 1977. Contact your college dean for further information.

The Union Program Council Concert Committee is taking applications for members. Contact John Valinek, Nebraska Union 115 or call 472-2454.

Candidates who wish to run for ASUN spring elections must file by Feb. 25 at 4 p.m. Forms are available in Union 334.

A limited number of Winter Walpurgisnacht T-shirts are available in Union 115 for \$3. To reserve yours, call 472-2454.

The Mexican - American Student Association will meet at 7:30 tonight in the Union. There will be a Valentine's Dance Friday from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Radisson Cornhusker Hotel Grand Ballroom. Reynoldo Cervantes y Sus Caballero will perform. Admission is \$2.50.

The Baptist Student Union is sponsoring a 6:59 Rally at 7 p.m. in the Union. Room number will be posted.

The Medical Careers Christian Fellowship will meet at S.I. Fuenning's home at 7:30 p.m. Persons who need rides should be at Wesley House at 7 p.m.

Phi Chi Theta will meet at 4:30 p.m. in the Union. Room number will be posted.

The UNL Dept. of Geology is featuring John Clough, assistant professor of Geology to speak on the various geophysical measurements of the earth at 4 p.m. Thursday in Brace Auditorium.

The Semper Fidelis Club will meet from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. in the Union. Dale Herspring from the Dept. of State will speak on "East European Armies—How Ready?"

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