

# Catledge: media can serve public with imagination

By Mike Patten

The most important thing newspapers, television and radio can do to better serve the public is to unshearth their imaginations, according to a retired executive editor of *The New York Times*.

Turner Catledge, on campus Monday through Wednesday to speak to UNL journalism classes, said newspapers must continue to change with the times and provide what the public wants.

However, he said, a newspaper cannot just give the public so-called good news.

"You have got to be honest with them (the public)," he said, "or you lose your credibility. The news is abnormal. If good things are news, we are in a hell of a fix.

"We are not in this business for ourselves," he said. "Our only franchise is the reader."

He said newspapers can do a lot of things better than radio or TV, but that radio and TV also do many things better than newspapers.

"Newspapers have the power to interpret and explain," he said. "You can also pick up a paper now and read it an hour later at the train station. With the news on TV you have to be there then to get it all."

He said an example of newspapers covering news better than radio or TV is the current energy situation. He said TV might give it 30 seconds of coverage while newspapers can cover it in-depth.

"I do not consider myself in competition with TV," he added.

Catledge said he is "utterly opposed" to censorship of any kind.

"The First Amendment does not grant a right," he said. "It protects a right that already exists."

The First Amendment says Congress shall make no law abridging the freedom of the press.

Catledge said people are concerned that in some cases a free press can make it impossible for a defendant to get a fair trial, but he said he does not think this is true.

## Civic Center bond to get student help

A UNL version of the Lincoln Citizens for the Civic Center is being formed to get student support for the center bond issue, said David Eberhart, committee chairman.

If the proposed bond issue on the May 3rd city election ballot passes, Lincoln will have a new Civic Center by 1979, said Eberhart.

"Students should get out and vote for it because the university would probably get more out of it than any other group in Lincoln," he said.

The proposed center would be built between the Old City Hall and the Old Federal Building, in the block bounded by 9th, 10th, O, and P Streets.

Eberhart said this site would save the city about \$2.5 million since the land would be donated to the city by the Civic Center Corporation if the bond issue is passed.

He added that passing of the bond issue would preserve the architectural style and historical value of the

"If you cannot give him (a defendant) a fair trial, turn him loose. I know a lot of judges who believe this way too."

He said the First Amendment should cover broadcasters too, but in reality does not. The government can control the airwaves used by radio and TV and thus control what is said by them, Catledge said.

buildings. He said the total cost of the project is estimated at under \$7 million.

The Center, a 2,500 seat theatre would host operas, plays, rock concerts and other performances not suited in size to any of Lincoln's existing theatres or auditoriums, he said.

Eberhart said he wants his committee to consist of students from all factions of the student population. He said he has asked the presidents of ASUN, the Interfraternity Council, Panhellenic Association and Residence Hall Association to encourage members to get involved in the project.

The committee's campaign will consist mainly of brochures from the Citizens for the Civic Center distributed in the Nebraska Union, Eberhart said. Committee members may also go door to door to solicit support, he said.

The brochure lists advantages of a vote for the bond issue, such as enhancement of the downtown real estate, and more office space for the city.

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