

Death bill deferrment pleases Ernie

Omaha Sen. Ernie Chambers said he did "the only thing that could be done" when he asked that consideration of the bill to abolish the death penalty be bracketed until next January.

The bill was revived, 26-7, Monday. However, senators agreed to postpone discussion on LB64 27-8.

Chambers said he is "convinced" there will be no executions this summer.

He has often reminded senators during debate on the bill that four men now sit in Nebraska's death row. Three are scheduled to be executed this summer.

Chambers said the appeal process will postpone these sentences.

"If I were a lawyer I would certainly argue that no execution should be scheduled while legislation repealing capital punishment was being considered," he said.

The bill killed by a 22-23 vote last week, was revived with Falls City Sen. Nelson Merz's motion to reconsider.

Calling it a "mixed victory," Chambers said he would have been disappointed with such a decision at the session's beginning, but said that "after nursing it through the session" and after having seen it killed he was pleased with Monday's results.

Chambers said he wants to "generate support for the bill" during the summer.

Neligh Sen. John DeCamp, a staunch opponent to LB64, was absent Monday. He is hospitalized in Omaha for leg surgery.

Legislators 'trim fat'

Nebraska legislators have tackled yet another heavy issue—their beltlines. Monday was the weigh-in day ending a diet contest among five senators and a secretary.

Omaha Sen. Neil Simon won the contest by losing 18 pounds, according to contest Judge Kearney Sen. Martin Kahle.

Kahle said all participants put \$10 into the contest pot at the contest's April 5 beginning and anyone not losing at least four pounds had to add an additional \$10.

Omaha Sen. Tom Fitzgerald dropped from 210 pounds to 198 pounds. He said he had the contest won until last weekend when he attended a convention and consumed steaks and highballs.

Bellevue Sen. Frank Lewis emptied his pockets before mounting the scales, but still registered only two pounds lost. Omaha Sen. Bill Brennan gained a pound during the contest.

daily nebraskan

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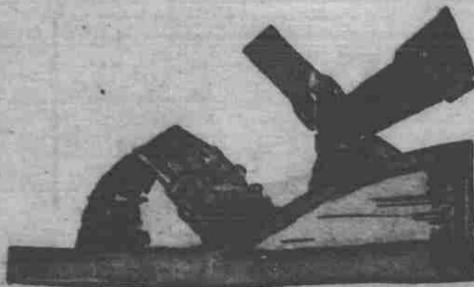
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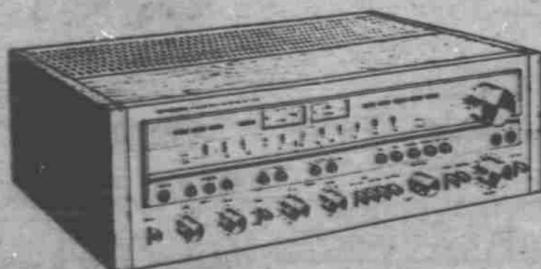


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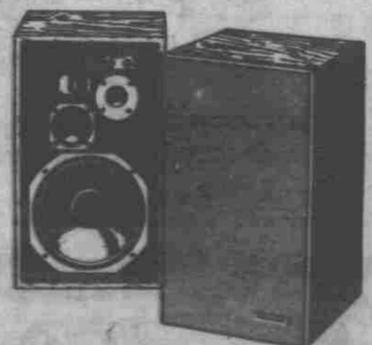


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