

Counselor finds Chinese gracious

The Republic of China is far from UNL if miles are the only measure of space. But if the distance is gaged in friendship and understanding, it can shorten considerably.

Peter Levitov, UNL's coordinator of international educational services, traveled that distance recently as a guest of the Republic of China's government.

He was one of 10 people from throughout the United States chosen to make the official visit.

Levitov, who includes about 75 Chinese from Taiwan among the foreign students counseled by those in his office, was invited because of the Chinese government's gratitude for his past work and because of its hope that he and the Chinese students might benefit from his learning more about the educational, economic and social conditions of Taiwan.

"I think the principal professional benefit of the trip to me, to this office and to the university is the fact that the Chinese students may now feel more comfortable about coming in, knowing that someone here knows more about their heritage and may lend a more sympathetic ear to their problems," Levitov said.

Trip provides experience

Acknowledging that the trip can provide him with only a limited common experience with the students, he adds, "I don't pretend to be a great expert after several weeks, but at least I know a little more than I did."

Levitov says he finds many of the differences between Chinese and American culture intangible, but he hopes that by having observed the Chinese way of life, family

structure, communications and transportation he will be able to better understand and help Chinese students. He already has made efforts to share his knowledge with others on campus.

Although they were invited primarily to learn about the educational system of the country the 10 visitors also saw sights which gave them a cultural and governmental view of the islands which compose the Republic of China.

They visited such places as the National Institute of Technology, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Justice's Bureau of Investigation, the world's newest ship building company, capable of building some of the world's largest ships, the National Palace Museum and the China arts factory.

People were gracious

"Every place we went we were always served tea, and encouraged to relax. The people were very gracious; it was much more informal than I had expected," Levitov said.

He adds that for him the highlight of the trip was meeting students who planned to attend UNL.

"About a week before we arrived on Taiwan articles appeared in Chinese newspapers saying that we'd be there and that students who would be attending the universities we represented could come meet with us."

About 10 students came to meet with Levitov, and he said they were pleased to be able to ask questions and hear about the school.

The Republic of China places a heavy emphasis on education, Levitov said. Recently compulsory education increased from six to nine years. The number of students, schools and teachers has increased, while the teacher/pupile ratio has dropped.

Students are briefed

Only graduate students receive passports to study outside the Republic of China because the Chinese feel they have adequate facilities for student's first degrees, Levitov said. Before students can continue their studies they serve two years in the military. Republic of China students coming to the U.S. usually are 25 or older before they continue in graduate school.

Because of the Republic of China's great concern with the threat from the mainland, a precondition for students applying for passports to study elsewhere is that they must attend a briefing session, Levitov said. At that session they are warned not to be persuaded by the arguments of people with leanings toward the People's Republic of China on the mainland, and they are told to let the concern their country feels about communism be known.

One thing Levitov enjoyed during his visit was the evidence of the Chinese reverence for age. He cited two older men they visited, one of whom, in his 70s, was president of the National Taiwan University.

People revere age

"He was an alert and active man and it was a pleasure to be with him," Levitov said. "It's heartening to see someone in his 70s in such a responsible position."

He adds that another sign of the reverence those in the Republic of China have for age is seen in the ways old people are encouraged to stay healthy.

"It is the custom for the aged there to go to parks early in the morning where they do body movement exercises in groups. They get to see their friends, they retain their physical strength, and they go home about 7:30 a.m. before it gets too hot. At home they're cared for in something of an extended family situation," where several generations live together.

Country of Contrasts

To Levitov, the Republic of China was a country of contrasts. "In the city of Taipei you can see a 15 story building and five blocks away a rice paddy," he says. "Every available inch of space in the country is used. They have tremendous industry—it's a very commercialized, industrialized area and the Chinese have been known as merchants all through history—and there are more taxis per square inch than any place in the U.S., except maybe Washington.

"Unemployment is very low there," he continues, "People are not starving in Taiwan, although they lead different lifestyles than we do here and may make do with simpler things."

After the 10 days spent in the Republic of China Levitov flew to the Philippines where he met with several UNL alumni from that country. He said that all are doing well in their professions, and that he thinks it is good for the university to know how far away its influence is felt.

- Checks You
- Checks Itself
- 49 Lines Of Fully Merged Keycodes
- 8 User Memories



HP-33E - Programmable Scientific

Don't miss the new Hewlett-Packard calculators. The HP-33E won't let you go wrong! \$100.

Stationery, Lincoln Center and Gateway

Miller & Paine
Nebraska's QUALITY Department Stores

THE BOLD AND THE BEAUTIFUL



SCHLITZ MALT LIQUOR. NOW IN A CLASSIC NEW BOTTLE.

© 1978 Joz. Schlitz Brewing Co., Milwaukee and other great cities.

ATTENTION

for Super Prices & Fast Delivery come to

Jim Dier Sportswear

Nebraska's largest Shirt Printer

T-Shirts
Athletic Shirts
Jackets
Custom Mugs

1724 'O' St. 474-4308

Or See Our Campus Representatives:
Delta Sigma Pi Fraternity