

## Polls predict precedent in Nebraska Senate election

Analysis by L. Kent Wolgamott

Nebraskans appear to be ready to set a precedent, jump off a bandwagon, and defeat an environmental clean-up measure when they go to the polls on Tuesday.

The precedent would be the election of Democratic Gov. J. James Exon to the Senate, allowing him to join Edward Zorinsky as the first two Democrats from Nebraska to serve in the Senate simultaneously.

Exon seems to be riding the crest of his high popularity as he leads Republican opponent Don Shasteen by over 40 percentage points in copyrighted polls released Sunday by the *Omaha World Herald* and the *Lincoln Sunday Journal and Star*.

He led Shasteen by 67 to 25 percent in the *World-Herald* poll conducted by Joe B. Williams and by 64 to 20 percent in the *Journal and Star* poll conducted by Selection Research Inc.

### Off bandwagon

The bandwagon which Nebraskans appear to be prepared to abandon is the national tax revolt begun by the passage of California's Proposition 13.

Proposition 302, Nebraska's tax

measure, which would place a five percent limit on increases in local government spending, has lost support since it was placed on the ballot by citizen initiative and now seems headed for defeat, according to both polls.

The Williams poll shows 35 percent of the 753 Nebraskans surveyed favor the measure while 50 percent say they oppose it.

Similar figures are presented by the SRI poll which indicated 29 percent of the 930 people surveyed favored the lid while 45 percent opposed the proposed amendment.

The results of both polls are reversals of earlier surveys which indicated support for the measure by those surveyed.

Efforts by teachers, school boards, firefighters and other local groups against the proposal should be credited with any change in opinion which has occurred.

### Bottle bill reversal

Another reversal in opinion occurred on Proposition 301, the bottle bill.

Polls taken by Williams in August and September showed the bottle bill was supported by 60 percent of those surveyed.

However, the poll released Sunday re-

ported an about-face in opinion as only 36 percent of those surveyed support the measure while 58 percent opposed it.

The reversal may be attributed to the advertising campaign waged against the amendment by Nebraskans for Freedom of Choice.

Proponents of the measure have filed charges with the Nebraska Political Accountability and Disclosure Commission which claim the ads in the estimated \$350,000 campaign, have been misleading, charges which the opponents deny.

### Too close to call

Two of the five major races for state and national office remain too close to call.

The contest for the governorship between Democratic Lt. Gov. Gerald Whelan and Republican Rep. Charles Thone and the 1st District House race between Democrat Hess Dyas and Republican State Sen. Douglas Bereuter are very tightly contested, according to the polls.

Although both polls show Thone leading, the SRI poll indicates a change by Whelan who has come to within four percentage points of Thone at 41 to 37 percent, narrowing a 14 point gap to a point near the statistical margin of error—plus

or minus three percent—for the statewide survey.

However, the Williams poll showed Thone increasing his lead by four percentage points from 49 to 53 percent, while Whelan stayed at approximately 40 percent.

Both polls were taken over the same period of time, from Oct. 27 to Nov. 1 with the Williams poll being conducted on the last three days.

### Aggressive campaign

Whelan has continued his aggressive campaign since the polls were taken, attacking Thone for his "veto" of a rebroadcast of their debate on Nebraska Educational Television.

The polls also vary on the leader of the Dyas-Bereuter race with the Williams poll indicating a 6 point lead for Dyas at 47 to 41 percent while SRI's poll shows Bereuter leading 42 to 38 percent.

Both of these leads also are close to the statistical margin of error for the samples, indicating an extremely close race.

So, it seems these races will depend on voter turnout to decide the winners.

Both the Dyas and Bereuter campaigns have shown their ability to get voters to the polls, Dyas in his 1974 and 1976 Congressional campaigns and Bereuter in this spring's primary race against State Sen. Loran Schmit.

The Thone organization has traditionally been strong in the First Congressional District, but it remains to be seen if this ability will be carried statewide.

### Voter turnout

Whelan should be aided by the heavy turnout in predominantly Democratic Omaha being predicted by Douglas County Election Commissioner. A high turnout in Omaha and a good showing in Lincoln, aided by the Dyas effort could be the crucial points for the Whelan campaign.

Weather also could be a large factor influencing voter turnout. Although it is difficult to determine which candidates would benefit most from poor weather, Thone probably would be aided most by weather which allows farmers to leave their fields and go to the polls.

Representatives John Cavanaugh and Virginia Smith are maintaining comfortable leads over their challengers.

Cavanaugh leads his Republican challenger Hal Daub 52 to 37 percent in the SRI poll and 57 to 38 percent in the Williams poll, despite Daub's efforts to make Cavanaugh and his record the issue in the campaign.

Smith, demonstrating a popularity equal to that of Exon, leads Democrat Marilyn Fowler by margins of 73 to 12 percent in the SRI survey and 76 to 20 percent in the Williams poll.

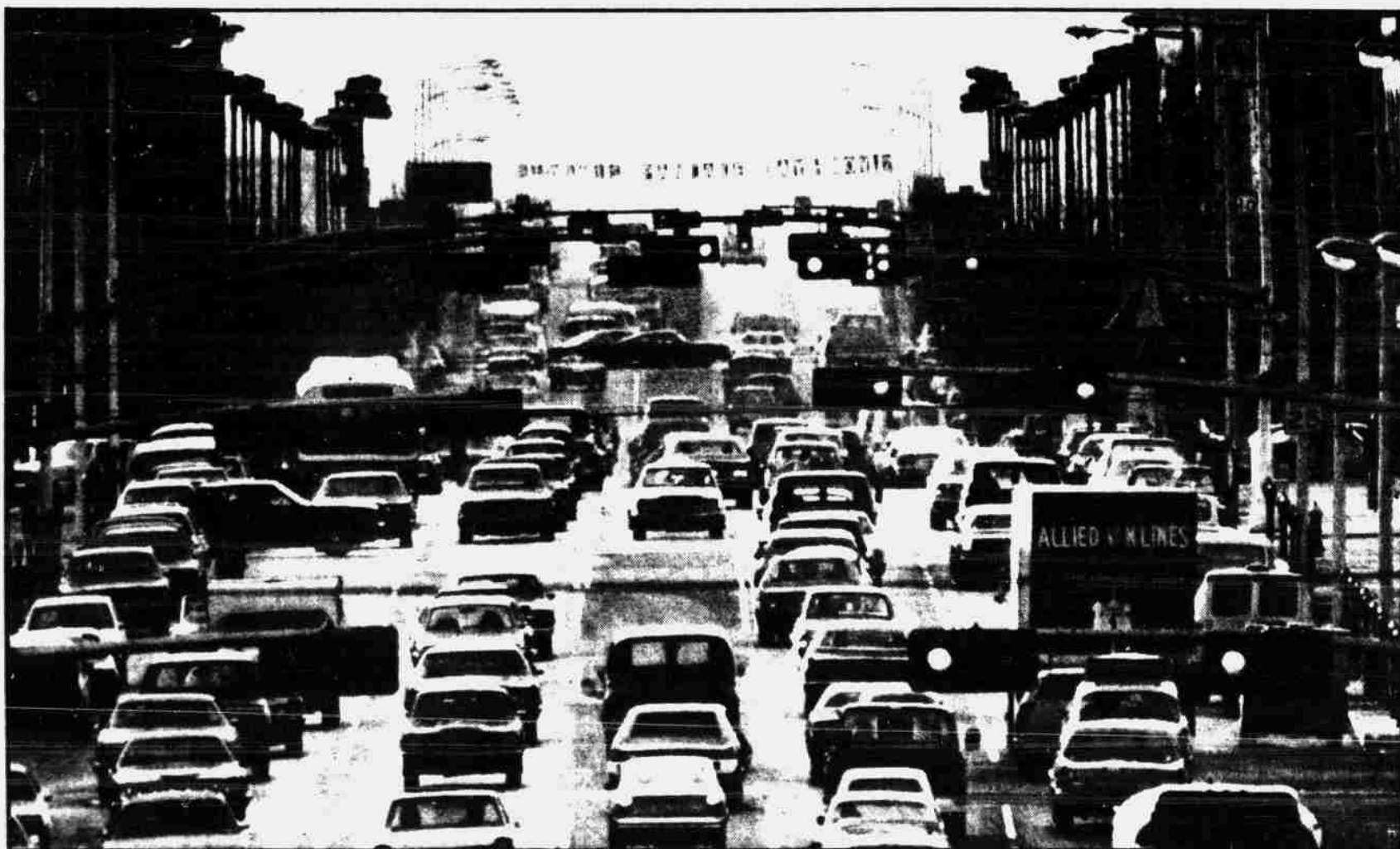


Photo by Ted Kirk

The distance from the intersection of 27th and O streets to the O Street viaduct seems so close, but yet so far. . . This photo was taken with a telephoto lens.

## Free home-weatherizing available to qualifying students

By Randy Essex

Off-campus students shivering from the knowledge that winter's low temperatures and high heating bills are just around the corner may be able to find some warmth in knowing they may qualify to have their rented homes weatherized free.

The Lincoln Action Program provides free insulation, weather stripping, caulking, storm windows and doors and labor for persons whose incomes are low enough to meet federal guidelines, according to Donald Hunter, LAP executive director.

Hunter said low-income tenants in need of the service are eligible if they pay utilities and if their landlords sign a form promising not to raise rent for one year after weatherization.

"Some landlords won't go along with it, but most do because their property is being improved at no cost to them," Hunter said.

Hunter explained that two federal agencies, the Department of Energy and the Community Services Administration—provide money for materials and determine who qualifies as low income.

### Income levels

A person living alone making less than

\$3,140 a year qualifies under energy department poverty levels. Two people in a household whose combined annual income is less than \$4,160 also meet those requirements.

Energy department levels for three and four people in one house are \$5,180 and \$6,200, respectively.

Community Services Administration income levels are more liberal, Hunter said. One person making less than \$3,925 annually qualifies for CSA materials. Two people must make less than \$5,200, three must make less than \$6,475 and four less than \$7,750.

However, Hunter said, LAP runs into problems with duplexes and other multiple family dwellings. All people living in the unit must be classified as low-income or the house cannot be weatherized under the program, Hunter explained.

LAP recently received \$60,000 for the program from the energy department and \$7,100 from Community Services Administration, Hunter said. He added that CSA provided \$45,000 about a year ago and he expects the agency to provide more funds soon.

"This money comes in on and off," he

explained. He said money is directed to LAP by the State Department of Energy, which receives federal funds directly.

### Labor costs

Labor costs for the program are paid with funds received from the Lincoln Urban Development Department, the Lincoln Comprehensive Employment and Training Act office and the State Department of Labor, Hunter said.

The money is provided partly because weatherization saves energy and partly in an effort to improve communities and low-income standards of living, according to LAP literature on the program.

Linda Dohmen, secretary for program coordinator Jim Glisan, said 250 homes in Lancaster and Sanders counties were weatherized under the program from October 1977 to September 1978.

Dohmen said 20 of those homes were in the Malone neighborhood of Lincoln and 54 were in the Clinton area. Malone is just east of the UNL city campus, north of O Street, west of 27th Street and south of X Street (approximately).

Clinton is north of Malone, borders the city campus to the west, east campus to the east and Cornhusker Highway on the

north. Both neighborhoods house many UNL students.

Hunter said the average cost for weatherization is \$500 per home. He also said he hopes the Department of Energy property levels are "liberalized" in accord with CSA levels.

People believing they are eligible should apply at 1908 S St. for free weatherization.

## inside monday

Not quite a piece of the rock: A new approach to health care comes to Lincoln in January . . . .

.....page 8

Rock 'n' roll returns: Dylan put a new face on old songs in Omaha Saturday . . . . .page 12

Wish Saturday would come Sooner: Huskers prepare for Oklahoma by beating Kansas 63-21 at Lawrence

.....page 14