

Drinking age doesn't belong in constitution-Thone

By Randy Essex

Gov. Charles Thone said Friday he does not think a drinking age belongs in the state constitution and he will not advocate a change in the present age.

Thone made the remarks at his weekly press conference.

However, Thone said he will sign a bill increasing the drinking age if the Legislature—"in its wisdom"—passes such a bill. He said he will not advocate any change because the lawmakers have already spoken on the matter, killing drinking age increases the last two years.

Grand Island Sen. Ralph Kelley has intro-

duced two bills to raise the age from 19 to 21. LB221 would change the age by law, and LB350 would provide a constitutional amendment that would have to be approved by voters.

A drinking age does not belong in the constitution because it would "clutter the constitution with a special situation," he said.

He opposed a constitutional amendment to limit spending of political subdivisions for the same reason, he said.

On other subjects, Thone said his office is working hard to find department heads for welfare, correction and public institution divisions of state government.

Thone also said his budget, announced Thursday, reflects his plan to have "quality administration through quality employees."

His plan to provide 6.5 percent pay increases to state employees and cut the number of employees is a beginning of the plan, he said.

There are too many state bureaucrats, he said, and some employees are less than high quality. He added that the state does have some good workers, and he plans to reward them by stressing merit raises.

Thone said he was pleased by reaction to his budget from individual senators and the Legislature as a whole.

Property tax bills will receive high prior-

ity if and when they reach his desk, he said. Existing laws are sufficient to equalize property assessments and tax bases statewide and he will not hesitate to make sure the law is followed, he said.

As chairman of the State Board of Equalization, Thone has the power to help decide when counties have been negligent in updating and equalizing property values. Under law, such counties may be penalized by withholding state funds.

Neligh Sen. John DeCamp has filed suit, charging that the State Board has not carried out its duties. Thone said he hopes the state Supreme Court decides what action is needed in ruling on the suit.

Ag research fails to help small farmers, suit says

By Carla Engstrom

A lawsuit which challenges the University of California's agricultural research by claiming it favors corporate farming over small farmers may affect NU's agricultural research, according to Ralph Abascal, a member of California Rural Legal Assistance.

The suit was filed in Oakland, Calif. by California Rural Legal Assistance on behalf of 19 farm workers who say mechanized agriculture is pushing them out of work.

Abascal said mechanization has been

the product of land grant colleges like NU.

He said he did not believe small farmers', laborers' or consumers' interests are being served by complicated research.

Change research

The goal of the Center for Rural Affairs of Walthill, which sponsored the press conference, is to "reorientate Nebraska's research," Abascal said.

Nebraska has lost 1,000 farmers every year since 1935 and mechanization is pushing them out of business, said Gene Severens, legal counsel for the center's small farm advocacy project.

"We don't have any lawsuits planned now (against NU)," said Marty Strange,

co-director of the center. He added that a law suit would be a last resort.

"Agriculture research comes cheap to those who know how to buy it," said Abascal.

Abascal said a business sometimes can get \$100,000 worth of agricultural research by putting up \$5,000, and the business dictates guidelines for the research.

Public interest

Howard Ottoson, dean and director of the Agricultural Experiment station, said buying \$100,000 worth of research for \$5,000 is "poppycock."

A condition for using any grant fund is not to compromise the guidelines and goals set out by the staff, Ottoson said.

However, he added, "You respect the source that gives you money," and he said that source usually is state or federal aid.

Strange said Nebraska developments such as the center-pivot irrigation system have led to more mechanization of farming. He said the irrigation system has increased energy use and costs while increasing corn production.

Hog factories

Ottoson said Nebraska did not develop the irrigation system and he said he doesn't see center pivot irrigation "as a creature of large farming."

The system is used by family sized farms, Ottoson said.

Hog factories, where hogs are raised in confined spaces are another instance where families are being pushed out of business by research, Strange said.

"It's true a number of large scale hog enterprises use confined hogs, but you can produce a small number of hogs in confined areas," Ottoson said.

He said one could probably find research that favors large farms, but he added research is geared to meet all farm needs in Nebraska.

Ottoson also said NU does weigh the consequences of productivity against things such as environmental impact.

"But I think society has agreed that productivity is an important goal," he said.

The United States could not be a major exporter of food if it weren't for productivity, Ottoson explained.

If the United States uses agriculture technology of the early 1950s, it would take twice as much labor as it does today, he said.

Good or bad

"You decide if that's good or bad," Ottoson said.

Ottoson also said the station has input from 20 to 30 groups, such as the Sandhills Cattlemen Association and the poultry association.

"We welcome suggestions and have several advisory committees made up of lay people in Scottsbluff, North Platte and Concord," Ottoson said.

Vice Chancellor of the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources Martin Massengale also has a citizen advisory council of about 130 people from all over the state, Ottoson said.

daily nebraskan

Publications number 144080

Editor in chief: Pete Mason. Managing editor: George Wright. News editor: L. Kent Wolgamott. Associate news editors: Betsie Ammons, Amy Lenzen. Assistant news editor: Cindy Coglianesi. Night news editor: Margaret Stafford. Assistant night news editor: Anne Carothers. Layout editor: John Minnick. Entertainment editor: Jill Denning. Sports editor: Rick Huls. Photography chief: Ted Kirk. Art director: Jack Raglin. Magazine editor: Deb Shanahan. Ombudsman: Jim Kay.

Copy editors: Deb Emery, Mary Fastenau, Dave Ostdiek, Lynn Paustian, Sue Schaefer, Gail Stork, Jay Withrow.

Business manager: Jerri Haussler. Production manager: Kitty Policky. Advertising manager: Denise Jordan. Assistant advertising manager: Pete Huestis.

The Daily Nebraskan is published by the UNL Publications Board on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday during fall and spring semesters, except during vacation.

Address: Daily Nebraskan, Nebraska Union 34, 14th and R streets, Lincoln, Neb. 68588. Telephone: 472-2588.

Material may be reprinted without permission if attributed to the Daily Nebraskan, except material covered by a copyright.

Second class postage paid at Lincoln, Neb. 68510.

say it in wood
all in natural white pine
your name or emblem
75¢ a letter

stacked names
\$1.00 a letter

wooden stuff
design woodworking
900 s 13th lincoln 432-7940

**IMMIGRATION
LAWYER**

Stanley A. Krieger
1004
City Nat'l Bank Bldg.
Omaha, Ne
68102

(402) 342-8015

Member, Assn. of
Immigration and
Nationality Lawyers

**Monday
madness!**

on Mondays only
order a 16" regular crust pizza
with pepperoni, mushrooms or
hamburger plus 3 16oz Cokes
for only \$5.25 Save \$2.25

No coupon necessary
have to do is ask! all you

No coupons accepted with
this offer

Fast Free Delivery
611 N 27th St
475-7672
2933 N 48th St
466-2377

Copyright 1979

February is
**BLACK HISTORY
MONTH**

Check on these programs:

Tues., Feb. 6 - Everything You Wanted To Know About Blacks, But Were Afraid To Ask! 11:30-1:30, Nebraska Union Main Lounge

Wed., Feb. 7 - Pan Africanism in Perspective, 12:00-1:30 (Room to be posted)

Thurs., Feb. 8 - Black Women In Nebraska History, Nebraska Union Room 232 or 242, 3:00 p.m., Bertha Calloway- Great Plains Black Museum

Fri., Feb. 9 - "Black Men In Perspective": - Union Main Lounge-11:30-1:00 p.m.

Sat., Feb. 10 - Movie "Blue Collar" Starring Richard Pryor and "Five on the Black Hand Side," Nebraska Ballroom, showing at 6 and 9:30 p.m.

Events to continue throughout the month

Sponsored by University Program Council-Cultural Center,
Special Services, Multi-Cultural Affairs,
Malone Center, Nebraska Committee for the Humanities, Student Y