

# daily nebraskan

## Cavanaugh discusses conscription plan

By Barb Richardson

The United States' obligations to care for its resources, elderly, veterans, and education are not being filled, but could be through a mandatory public service proposal, according to Rep. John Cavanaugh, D-Neb.

Cavanaugh spoke to about 200 people Thursday in the Nebraska Union about the Public Service System proposal he presented to the House of Representatives April 10.

Under the proposal all males and females must register for a six-month period they would be available to serve either in the U.S. civil service system or in the U.S. military.

Those registered have the options of volunteering for 18-months of active military duty to be served between the age of 18 and 26, volunteering for six months of active military service followed by three years of active reserve or volunteering for two years of civilian service.

### Conscription

If individuals do not wish to volunteer for any of the above, they will be subject to a random selection by the government for 18 months of active duty in the military, active military duty for six months followed by a three year period of duty in the reserves, or two years of work

in civil service.

Those people who fail to register for duty under the proposal will be ineligible for federal grants, loans, or scholarships.

Cavanaugh said that one of the premises of the proposal is that the nation is not meeting its obligations.

### Social inequity

He outlined those obligations as maintenance of U.S. forests and natural resources, the care of the nation's elderly, the care of veterans, the construction and maintenance of U.S. highways and the maintenance of the quality of education in the U.S.

"We have a diminishing capability to meet these obligations," Cavanaugh said.

"The basic problem that disturbed me is the social inequity," he said about the U.S. military force.

Cavanaugh said more than 30 percent of the army is made of minorities "primarily black."

The figure is disturbing because 35 percent of the minority population is unemployed, he said.

"What we have now is a system of racial and socio-economic conscription," he said.

The minorities and poor cannot get jobs

so, they turn to the service, Cavanaugh said.

"Ultimately, I think the proposal I have put forward will meet the needs," he said. "You may not agree with the solutions, but each of us has an obligation."

When asked by a member of the audience why his proposal is limited to those between 18 and 26, Cavanaugh said that time period is the less disruptive than others in most people's lives.

The pool to draw people to service is decreasing, the nation's reserves are decreasing, and the cost of a volunteer service is increasing, Cavanaugh said, answering why a peace time draft is needed.

Cavanaugh pointed out that the Secretary of the Army recently announced that the Army plans to spend \$20 million on recruitment next year.

The representative told the group earlier that his proposal will save the nation \$2 billion in the civil service branch and \$3 billion in the military.

Signs such as "Conscription is an invasion of Privacy," to "The 13th amendment to the U.S. Constitution prohibits involuntary servitude-resist national service," in the audience indicated disapproval of the proposal.

Realizing that fact, Cavanaugh said, "I think this proposal has great difficulties ahead."

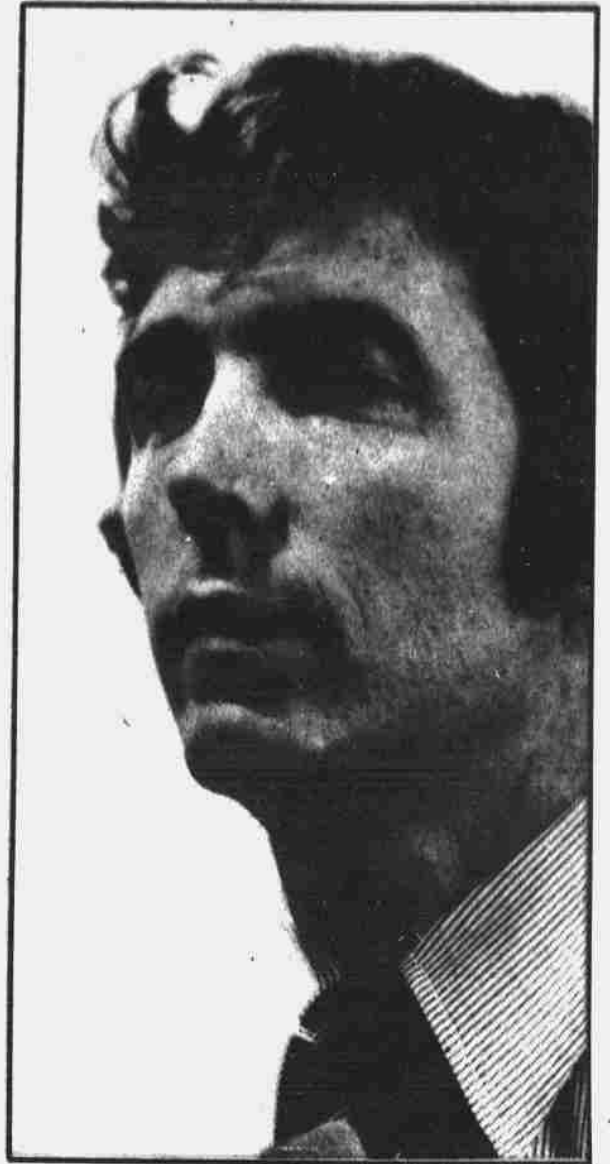


Photo by Mark Billingsley

Senator John Cavanaugh

## Prokop letter provokes request for NU investigation

By Randy Essex

Four state senators said Thursday they will introduce a resolution calling for legislative investigation of at the least the NU Foundation, following a meeting with NU Board of Regents Chairman Robert Koefoot and NU President Ronald Roskens.

An interim investigation would be conducted during the summer, if the resolution passes. The resolution is the result of a letter written by Regent Robert Prokop, charging that the regents and university administrators have taken part in a coverup.

Sens. Bill Burrows of Adama, Harold Sieck of Pleasant Dale, Nelson Merz of Falls City and Richard Mareah of Milligan said the proposal will advocate investigating the NU Foundation, and might include outside consultantships held by university professors.

The four are among seven senators who received the letter from Prokop and who met with Prokop Tuesday and Koefoot and Roskens yesterday. They said they were bothered by Koefoot's general attitude at the meeting.

### "Disagreeable"

Sieck described Koefoot as "disagreeable."

Koefoot said, "(the Prokop letter) has done more to destroy the university than anything I know of. I can't see how it can help when (the accusations) are complete falsehoods."

Mareah said he is most concerned about the NU Foundation because its activities and salary structure is not out in the open. The NU Foundation is a private, non-profit organization which raises money to the university.

Burrows said that although the founda-

tion is private, it is a creature of the state in that it is a corporation. He said he is concerned that benefits the organization provides administrators gives it an undue amount of influence in the management of the university.

"The benefits could give the foundation a share of influence over individual administrators," Burrows said.

### Spending accusations

But Koefoot and Roskens were firm in their defense of foundation activities and integrity. Roskens said Flavel Wright, legal counsel and former chairman for the foundation, "has always applied stringent restrictions" on the spending of funds.

Burrows said questions have been raised as to whether the foundation has made contributions to political campaigns, which is illegal for non-profit organizations. But Roskens and Koefoot said Wright and other members of the foundation would never be involved in illegal activity.

Concerning other accusations in the Prokop letter, Koefoot denied that L. Wayne Dobson, a UNL banking professor, is a paid consultant for any firms outside the university.

But under questioning from Burrows, Koefoot said he did not know if Dobson held such positions before. Burrows said he believed and would check to be sure if Dobson testified before the Legislature as a lobbyist for the Nebraska Bankers' Association, and had been listed in a journal as a consultant for the Kentucky Banker's Association.

### Research, consultantships

Koefoot said Dobson teaches in Kentucky during the summers, and that he (Koefoot) was sure Dobson does not hold any of the positions now.

Roskens asked the senators not to discuss consultantships of Dr. Philippe Shubik, director of the Eppley Cancer Research Institute at the Medical Center because the matter is under investigation by

a federal grand jury.

But another accusation concerning the Eppley Institute made by Prokop was discussed. Prokop said in his letter that the regents tried to cover up the amount of money paid for legal services for Eppley. Those fees, Prokop wrote, totaled more than \$46,000.

But Koefoot said the regents dealt with the matter openly. He said \$32,000 had been paid to an Omaha firm for legal services before the Medical Center chancellor or the regents found out about it.

Koefoot said the late John Gourlay, then legal counsel for NU, found out about the payments in March, 1978, and terminated the method of paying. The regents decided that legal fees for anyone in the system, if they are to be paid to an outside firm, have to be approved by the board, Koefoot said.

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Sandhill cranes find rest and relaxation on the Platte River. Story and pictures on page 11.

Photo by Jerry McBride