

UNMC adopts interim policy for therapeutic abortions

OMAHA—The University of Nebraska Medical Center has adopted an interim policy defining therapeutic abortions.

The new guidelines will remain in effect until a permanent policy is adopted by the medical staff's executive committee, Dr. F. Miles Skultety, medical staff president, said.

The NU Board of Regents, at its Oct. 12 meeting, banned non-therapeutic abortions.

ap datelines

That action followed the live birth of a 2-pound, 9-ounce infant during an abortion at the center. The child died several hours later.

The interim policy defines a therapeutic abortion as one necessary "to preserve the life of the mother or performed in those cases of rape or incest which have been reported to the proper legal authorities."

If the attending doctor decides the mother's life is in danger, he must get written confirmation of his judgment from at least two other medical staff members, the policy says.

At least one of the consultants "must be a board-certified specialist in a discipline other than obstetrics-gynecology who possesses expertise in the involved disease process," the policy says.

A board-certified specialist has met standards of a national board made up of physicians in the same area of medicine.

The requirement for consultation "will not apply in an emergency situation where there is an imminent threat to the life of a mother."

A committee will review all therapeutic abortions performed at the medical center "to assure compliance with this policy," the statement says.

Chancellor Neal Vanselow, Hospital Administrator Robert Baker and Skultety drafted the interim policy, Skultety said.

A three-member committee made up of an obstetrician, a pediatrician and a psychiatrist on the medical center's full-time staff will prepare a proposed permanent policy to be considered by the medical staff's executive committee. That will take one or two months, he said.

Skultety declined to name the committee members.

More arrests possible

OMAHA—Omaha Police said Tuesday that other arrests may be made in connection with a raid on a football bookmaking operation that they said grossed more than \$120,000 during weekends.

Seven persons were arrested Monday, including long-time Omaha gambler Joseph Digilio, on warrants alleging various violations of gambling laws.

Digilio, 66, has been arrested more than 60 times and convicted 30 times on gambling charges. He was charged this time with nine misdemeanor counts of promoting gambling. He was free after posting \$2,500 bond.

Olson said at the time of Digilio's arrest officers confiscated about \$1,000 in cash, several bet slips, two telephones, an adding machine and other types of equipment needed for football gambling.

Olson said 25 police officers were involved in the month-long investigation.

"We anticipate other arrests from this investigation," he said. Hundreds of persons and dozens of agents may be involved in the betting ring, he said.

Interests laws challenged

WASHINGTON—Fearful that the current credit crunch will dry up the flow of money for housing, farms and businesses, the Senate is moving to override state laws

Centrum...

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A monthly space renter said that she chose to use the Centrum garage because it was cheaper than other rates in town and she can use it seven days a week on her monthly ticket.

A RETIRED BUSINESSMAN, and former employee of the Lincoln Chamber of Commerce, said that "everything about it pleases me." He said that the entire Centrum project has achieved what the chamber had attempted to do during his years there. He said that the Centrum has created a "core area," and made Lincoln Center "the trunk of the tree."

Jerry Olsen, general manager of Lincoln Transportation System (LTS), said that the increase of parking facilities, namely the Centrum, has not really hurt bus ridership. He said that the past year has seen a 3 percent increase in ridership.

Olsen said the Centrum will force LTS to offer a better service to compete. He also said that LTS will be adding 13 buses in January.

Shirley Maly, employee of Car Pool/Van Pool, a service that organizes pools of Lincoln commuters, said "the situation (of Centrum parking) as far as we can tell has had no effect."

Maly said "our program has just been leaping forward."

that limit interest charged for loans.

Debate is continuing on a wide-ranging bill by the Banking Committee that, among other things, would wipe out state ceilings on home-mortgage rates.

Other parts of the bill would gradually repeal federal limits on the interest financial institutions may pay on savings deposits and allow all federally-chartered banks, credit unions and savings and loan associations to offer interest-bearing checking accounts.

By a 73-13 vote, the Senate approved Monday an amendment by Sen. Thad Cochran, R-Miss., that would override until July 1981 laws in 15 states and constitutional provisions in three others that limit interest on farm and business loans.

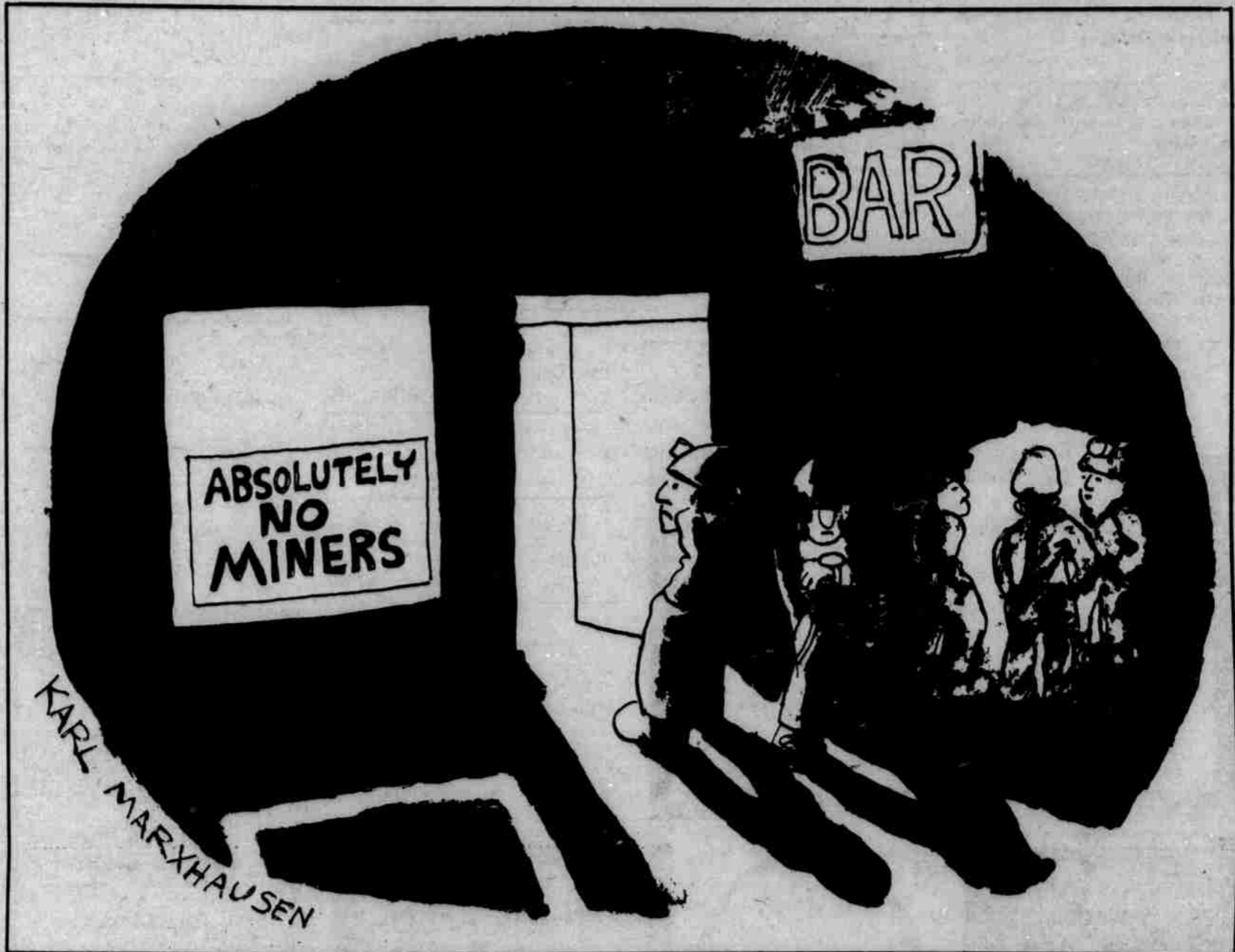
Unless an affected state's legislature acted to specifically exempt it from the Cochran amendment, the new limit on farm and business loans above \$25,000 by state-char-

tered banks would be 5 percentage points above the federal discount rate. That would translate to a 17 percent ceiling under current conditions. The state ceilings range downward from 12 percent.

"This is urgently necessary," argued Sen. William Proxmire, D-Wis., banking committee chairman. "There's no way a state economy can prosper if the constitution or laws mandate an interest rate below" going rates.

By voice vote, the Senate also approved an amendment by Sen. Alan Cranston, D-Calif., that would raise the maximum federal insurance on savings deposits from \$40,000 per account to \$50,000. Another Cranston amendment would allow savings and loan associations to offer credit cards, as banks do now.

The amendment affecting farm and business loans and the provision removing state limits on mortgage interest rates are designed to increase credit availability for homebuyers, farmers and businessmen.



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