

Fears for safety of relatives

# Former Afghanistan governor afraid to speak

By Diane Andersen

The former governor of Herat and Badakhshan provinces in Afghanistan, now in exile in the United States, said he cannot allow his comments on the Soviet invasion of his country to be printed.

Marshall Ayeen, associate professor of National Programs and Services and International Educational Services at UNO, said he fears for the safety of his relatives in Afghanistan if his comments about the Soviets are seen by the wrong people.

Ayeen spoke to the Lincoln Chapter of

the United Nations Association of the United States of America. He was the guest of Dr. Joseph O. Young, professor at UNL's Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Young spent 1975-77 in Afghanistan as a plant sciences consultant at Kabul University. He said he met Ayeen there and offered him assistance when he came to the United States in February of 1979.

While in Afghanistan, Young said, he had no premonition that a Soviet invasion was imminent. Yet, there have been three Soviet coups in Afghanistan since 1978.

Young said that although the Soviet Union and the United States vie for control in Afghanistan, the Afghan government made no bones about accepting aid from both countries in the form of road and bridge construction, military advisors and weapons.

"In these times a person who has lived in Afghanistan for a couple years," Young said, "cannot speak of his friends there without some emotion."

Ayeen, who earned a master's degree from Columbia University, said the many ethnic groups within Afghanistan "have

found unity in opposing invaders" throughout history.

Young explained that the Afghans are poor and mostly illiterate, but that they are well-versed in their country's history and are generally hospitable to foreigners.

"We (Americans) send engineers to places like this to teach them how to build like we do in the West," he said. Afghans have only earth to build with in an arid and mountainous country, he said.

Young said the Pashtun people, who live on the border with Pakistan, are causing some "unsettlement that could be very important" for Afghanistan's new situation.

"Islamic peoples carry their religion much more into their daily life than we do," Young added.

He said he wouldn't have been afraid of being able to get out of Afghanistan, had the invasion happened while he was there.

Ayeen said he agreed with Young that Muslim's generally like Americans.

"In my mind Khomeini is an aberration," Ayeen said of the anti-American hatred of Iran's leader.

Just as the American people should not have felt that the former shah of Iran represented the Iranian people, neither should they think the opinions of Khomeini are those of the majority of Iranians, Ayeen said.

He called the holding of American hostages in Tehran a "temporary situation."

# Food tax credit bill delayed by debate

A bill intended to raise the state food tax credit from \$20 to \$26 failed to advance in the Legislature Wednesday after debate over several proposed amendments exceeded the 90-minute time limit.

LB44, introduced by Milligan Sen. Richard Maresh, was delayed after several amendments were offered to raise the credit to as much as \$34. The bill, held over from last year, originally called for an increase to \$23. However, Maresh requested the extra \$3 increase because of the one-year delay.

Maresh refused to endorse any increase higher than the \$26 recommended by Gov. Charles Thone.

The food sales tax credit is intended to reimburse the average family for the

amount spent in sales tax on food. The Legislature has stymied attempts to eliminate a sales tax on food in favor of the tax credit.

"I support \$30. I'll support \$40. Nobody from the governor's office will come to this floor and tell me the money is not available," Keyes said.

Omaha Sen. Ernie Chambers supported the Newell amendment, calling the sales tax rebate program a "hoax and a charade," because it didn't do what it promised. He later introduced an amendment to raise the credit to \$34, a motion that failed 17-28.

Newell also offered an amendment to raise the credit to \$28, but that failed, as well as Lincoln Sen. Shirley Marsh's

amendment to raise it to \$27.

The bill will remain on general file until Speaker Richard Marvel of Hastings sets another date for debate.

Students who file a state income tax return can claim the credit unless their parents claim them as dependents or unless they lived in a residence hall more than six months out of the year.

The Legislature never voted on the Maresh figure of \$26 because of amendments offered by other senators. Sen. David Newell of Omaha initially tried to increase the figure to \$30, but that motion failed on an 18-23 vote.

"The figure of \$26 is totally and woefully inadequate," Newell said during floor debate.

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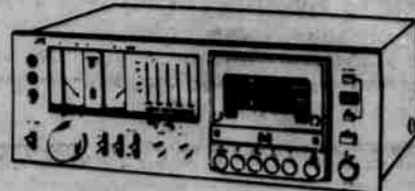
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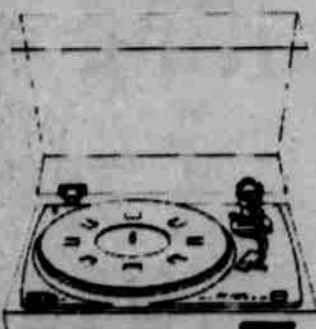
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Sanyo — F-8701A	AM-FM stereo radio in dash, push-button	\$130	\$89
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