

# 3M official defends corporations

By Suzanne Sayed

Lewis Lehr, vice chairman and chief executive officer of the 3M Corporation, defended verbal attacks made against the role of American multi-national corporations in their markets abroad in a speech presented Thursday.

Lehr, a native Nebraskan and NU graduate, said that multi-national corporations create wealth among foreign countries by creating the development of new growth.

Speaking of the 3M Corporation in particular, Lehr said there are 50 major profit centers in the U.S. and 50 others overseas.

"Since 3M's direct entry into world markets, international sales have grown from \$20 million annually to nearly \$2 billion, and account for nearly 40 percent of 3M's total sales," he said.

One of every six 3M employees in the U.S. owes his or her job to 3M's international operations, Lehr said. "Multi-nationals and free trade provide good jobs, mutual gain, interesting careers, and a good life for all," he said.

He added that interpersonal and business relations among the world's people represent greater communication than in past years.

"Commerce and trade relations between 3M's American and foreign employees display a much greater friendliness than between the governments of the respective countries," said Lehr.

### Evans refutes

Bert Evans, a UNL associate professor of economics, refuted Lehr's comments. He argued that multi-national corporations do little to contribute to the economy or prosperity of foreign countries.

"They exploit the poor," Evans said, "and take more money for their own company than they give to foreign

countries." Citing examples from nearly 20 books that he had read, Evans commented that multi-national corporations mistreat their foreign employees.

"Labor laws in the poor countries are virtually non-existent. Multi-nationals abuse the laws that American employees expect," he said.

Evans then said that all foreign countries would be better off if the big corporations would leave them alone.

"Countries would be in a better state if they were in control of their own production and growth, and could reap all the benefits of their work," Evans said.

Lehr argued that multi-national corporations contribute to the economy of foreign countries, claiming that 81.5 percent of 3M's investments are in foreign companies.

### Bettering relations

Lehr emphasized the bettering relations between people of different countries who are employed in multi-national corporations.

In response to questions from students as to whether they would get a job after graduation, Lehr said that it depends on whether there is a managed economy.

He said that economists inadvertently cause inflation by continual talk of recession. He added that inflation is really non-existent.

He compared the price of a gallon of gas to that of a gallon of milk, saying that gasoline is really not overpriced.

"Milk, which can be manufactured right here in Nebraska, costs \$1.83 a gallon. Gasoline, which can only be acquired through extensive drilling in foreign countries, only costs \$1.18 per gallon," he said.

Evans refuted that statement, saying that it is ridiculous to think that milk is consumed in the same proportions as oil.

## Refunds depend on withdrawal date

Students wishing to withdraw from UNL must be aware of the proper procedure, according to Ted Pfeiffer, director of registration and records.

"Students who withdraw are withdrawing only from their current semester registration," Pfeiffer said. "They should make their decision to withdraw before the eighth week of the semester, if possible. After that, they may be asked to sign withdrawal forms with all of their professors, and all tuition refunds will be forfeited."

Pfeiffer emphasized that students should not use the drop-add method to withdraw from UNL.

"The drop-add forms are to be used only in case of schedule changes. They do not withdraw a student from the university," Pfeiffer said. He commented that if a student uses this method to withdraw, his instructors have the option of failing him for the semester.

Students wishing to withdraw from UNL should go to room 108 of the Administration Building and fill out a withdrawal form. The registrar's office is interested in

knowing why a student decides to withdraw, but does not require that he be counseled or advised about his decision.

"If we can help prevent a student from withdrawal, we will try to do so," Pfeiffer said. "Sometimes we recommend that the student see his adviser before he withdraws, or that he see one of our undergraduate advisers, but we do not require this."

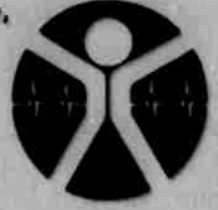
Tuition refunds and charges depend on withdrawal date. A student who withdrew from Jan. 14-21 would not be charged for tuition and refunded the \$25 registration fee. From Jan. 22-25, there was a 25 percent tuition charge, from Jan. 28-Feb. 1, a 50 percent tuition charge, and from Feb. 4-8, a 75 percent charge. After the eighth week of the semester, the student would be billed for all of the semester's tuition.

UNL has made no changes in withdrawal policy this year.

"Withdrawal is a fairly easy process if done correctly," Pfeiffer remarked. "It is just a matter of coming in and telling somebody."

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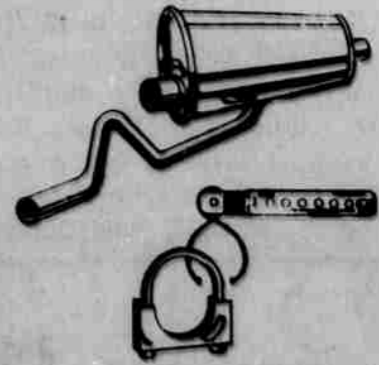
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