

Two Nebraskans for Peace criticize 'war for business'

By Diane Andersen

Two members of Nebraskans for Peace Wednesday criticized drafting men and women to fight in a war to support the U.S. military and American business conglomerates.

Sally Cottonwood, UNL English instructor, said she is an "unconditional advocate of nonviolence" and said that if President Carter recommends reinstating registration for the draft Friday, she hopes he will include women.

Cottonwood and Betty Olson, Nebraskans for Peace coordinator, spoke on "Women and the draft" Wednesday as part of the Women Speak series sponsored by the Student Y.

They encouraged students who are against war to establish a conscientious objector status now, so they can defend their beliefs to a draft board if the need arises.

Olson said conscientious objector cards are available at many Lincoln churches for this purpose. Nebraskans for Peace intends to create a file of the cards, Olson said.

After polling some Lincolinites by phone, Cottonwood said the "unofficial consensus" was that women should not be drafted before the Equal Rights Amendment is passed. Cottonwood said she agrees with that position because no one should be "taxed without representation."

But Cottonwood said she opposes the draft altogether because "no one should fight to maintain the interests of a country that oppresses them."

Cottonwood said inflation is a result of the Vietnam War, for which the United States is still paying its dues.

"We have to decide whether we should walk to work or march to war," Cottonwood said, adding that Americans can't continue to depend on foreign oil.

Women, she said, should reject the "worst aspects of men's society—profit, aggression, destruction and death."

She said she deplores the efforts of military recruiters to take advantage of high school students through magazine

ads such as, "Some of our best men are women" and "Enroll in America's largest government training program."

Olson said young people are vulnerable to military propaganda because they are not well-versed on the issues of international politics.

Much of the current pro-draft movement, Olson said, relies on reports about the Pentagon's "Nifty Nugget" program of 1978. The Pentagon, she said, designed a simulated mobilization of U.S. forces in the event of a war between NATO Europe and the Warsaw Pact nations that showed the United States would have manpower problems if a long conventional war developed.

The manpower problem would apply to any nation, she said, and yet this finding has been used to support a draft in the United States.

Olson said conscientious objectors should be firm in their stances and build a record of their philosophies because there will be tremendous pressure against them if the draft is reinstated.

She suggested anti-war letters should be written to legislators, since Congress will have to approve any plan President Carter proposes. Cottonwood said that in this election year "we should not vote for presidents who make war."

Counter-recruitment propaganda and support and unity among conscientious objectors is the only way to stop another war, Cottonwood said.

Olson said conscientious objectors "should be prepared to go to jail" for their beliefs.

Cottonwood said it may "draw away America's passion for war" if women are killed in combat. A Vietnam veteran in the audience said it was hard for him to see anyone killed, but that he would have been even more frightened if women had been in his unit.

Then a World War II veteran asked, "Have you ever seen anybody fit for war?"

"No," replied the Vietnam veteran.

Training program offered

By Jean Lundak

Students who have worked with UNL co-op training programs are "extremely attractive in the job market," Alfred Witte, associate professor of electrical engineering, said.

The program, created in 1971 by Donald Edwards, provides two nonconsecutive semesters and three summers of on-the-job training.

Electrical, mechanical, chemical, civil and aeronautic engineering majors and computer science majors with junior standing may participate in the program, Witte said.

"This is a voluntary program. Approximately 4 percent of the students in the engineering fields are involved with co-op training programs each year," Witte said.

"Not only does the student gain experience, but he earns a total of about \$18,000 before taxes during the five work periods," he said. "This makes the student self-financing. He can pay for his own schooling."

25 companies

The co-op training programs involve 25 companies and firms, including the Lincoln Electric System, Nebraska Department of Aeronautics, Burlington Northern Railroad, and the State Department of Roads.

"The students work around the Midwest, including Colorado and Illinois," Witte said.

As part of the program a student is assigned to work with a full-time engineer and begins with routine work such as working on a drafting table.

"The employers are very cooperative because their engineers become more valuable to them since they don't waste time doing routine work," Witte said.

When the student graduates, employers look at him closely because he has devoted two semesters to training and he has five periods of work experience, Witte said.

Never tested adequately

"Since 1971 the co-op program has never been tested adequately in the job market," Witte said. The real test will be if we have a bad job market—then the co-op students will be at a substantial advantage."

Co-op graduates receive an average monthly salary of \$150 more than graduates without the experience, he said.

"Students who have worked with a co-op are highly motivated," Witte said. They are in a working atmosphere and begin to miss campus life, he said, but after a semester of studying, they are ready to go back to work.

"It keeps them from getting bored," he said.

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