

Iran revolt necessary for freedom—Royanian

By Lori McGinnis

In order to gain independence, Iranian people had to revolt against the Shah's regime, an Iranian economist said Thursday in the Nebraska Union.

Economist Simin Royanian spoke to more than 100 people about the factors relating to the Iranian Revolution. The speech was the last program of this week's Middle East Symposium, sponsored by the University Program Council's Talks and Topics Committee.

"Under the Shah there was no freedom in Iran," Royanian said. "There was no freedom of press. To publish something in Turkish (the language spoken in Northeast Iran), was enough to put you in prison, even if it was just a poem."

Turmoil over the Shah's regime began with the 1963 announcement of plans for a white revolution, which would impose western culture on Iranian people, Royanian said.

The white revolution was part of a world-wide plan made by President Kennedy's administration, so the United States could have power over Iran, Royanian said.

The number of protests over the Shah's leadership increased, she said, and anyone who opposed his rule was jailed, tortured or killed.

An estimated 15,000 people were

killed during the Shah's regime, she said.

Because the Shah was unpopular, he became more repressive in order to stay in power, she said. One of the Shah's policies, the Land Reform Act, divided up the least fertile land among peasants, Royanian said, forcing them to look for work in the city. The act destroyed most of the agriculture in Iran.

Iran was self-supporting in food production before the Shah's regime, she said, but now Iran is importing 60 percent of its grain.

The act caused economic misery in Iran, Royanian said. Inflation grew to 30 percent a year. The average wage earnings among the people was \$5-\$12 a day.

A simple two-bedroom apartment in Tehran with no appliances averaged \$1,000 a month, she said.

"The welfare of the Iranian people deteriorated day by day," she said.

The United States had a significant role in bringing the Shah to power, Royanian said. The U.S. instigated SAVAK, the Shah's secret police, a tool the Shah used to implement his policies, she said. The U.S. supported him in all forms, she said.

Referring to the hostage situation, Royanian said, "Iranians don't hate Americans by any means, but they may hate the U.S. government's policy in Iran."

Lack of listening causes Mideast crises—Mutchnik

By Betsy Miller

"Suffering is part of any conflict, and I refuse to let mine be unrecognized," a Jewish refugee expelled from Iraq 30 years ago for her religious beliefs said Wednesday.

Aviva Mutchnik presented her views of the Palestinian-Israeli situation at the Nebraska Union as part of a Middle East symposium sponsored by the University Program Council's Talks & Topics Committee.

Mutchnik is a member of the Organization of Jews from Arab Countries.

Mutchnik said life in an Israeli "transition camp" was an abrupt change from her previous environment in Baghdad, Iraq.

Her family was expelled from Iraq in 1950 because of its Judaism.

The family relocated in Israel, where living conditions included a small shack and a lack of food, Mutchnik said. She also said that her family was considered small with five children, while the average family had 10 children.

According to Mutchnik, her period as a refugee changed her political views.

Not always Zionist

"I am now a Zionist. Was I in 1948? No, I wasn't. Neither was my family," she said.

Mutchnik said adjusting to life in Israel was difficult. Instead of being a minority in Iraq, she was part of a majority in Israel.

Mutchnik's talk was interrupted after 15 minutes when a man from the audience stood up and said she was not speaking on the Palestinian-Israeli situation which was the title of her presentation. Shortly after this, the man and several other members of the audience walked out despite Mutchnik's attempts to tell them the relation of her story to the Middle East.

Mutchnik said the dissenters' walkout was an example of the problems of negotiating between Middle East countries.

"There is the absence of the ear to listen," she said.

Mutchnik also said that the Middle East problem between Israelis and Palestinians involves more than two opinions.

Five sides

"You must listen to at least five sides to

understand the problem," she said.

Some listeners questioned her feelings that persecution of Jews in Arab countries is severe.

In reply, Mutchnik cited examples of persecution of Jews in Iraq from 1951 to 1977 and poor treatment of Jews in Syria who refused to leave the country after being expelled.

Mutchnik also disagreed with the opinion that the Palestine Liberation Organization is the official spokesman for Palestinian people.

She said she has spoken with Palestinians of the West Bank who told her they did not wish to be represented by the PLO.

She also downplayed reports of Israeli settlements in occupied areas.

"It's been blown way out of proportion," she said.

Despite differences, Mutchnik said she believes there is reason to be optimistic for peace between nations in the Middle East.

Although the situation appears tough, she said a passenger she met while flying to Lincoln gave her hope.

The passenger, an 82-year-old woman from Essex, Conn., took up scuba diving at the age of 72. Mutchnik said this is the type of determination and optimism needed by countries when thinking of peace agreements.

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

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Candidacy draws complaint

An objection has been lodged against a UNL student who is running for the NU Board of Regents from the sixth district, although his permanent residence is in the third district.

Rich Register, a senior pre-law major from Fremont, filed for the sixth district regent seat currently held by Robert Simmons of Scottsbluff.

However, two UNL seniors from the

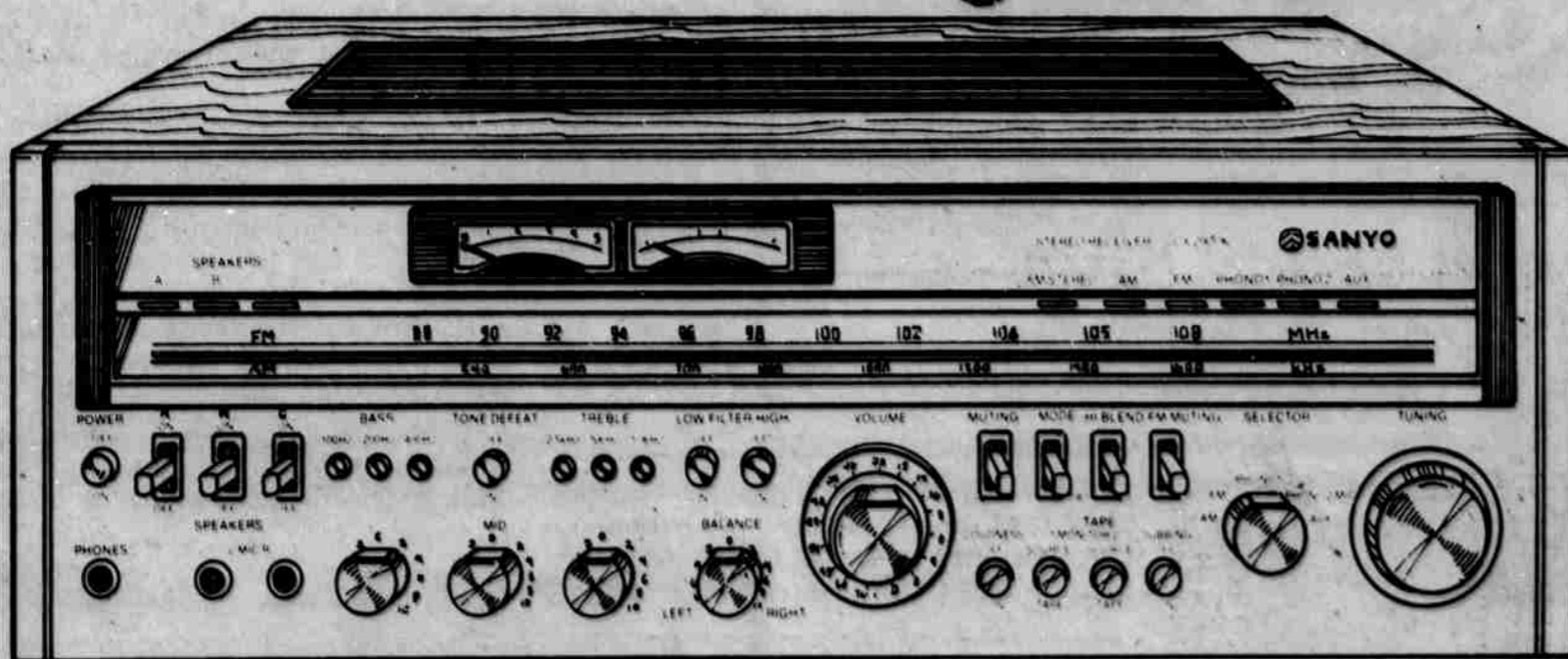
sixth district, Carter J. Kerk and Jane Svitak, have filed a complaint against Register with the Secretary of State.

The complaint states that Register is violating the state constitution by running for office in a district in which he is not a permanent resident.

There will be a hearing on the objection at 10 a.m. Tuesday in the East Senate Chamber of the Capitol.

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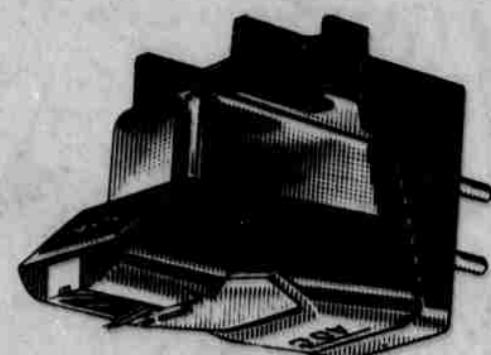
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