

Carter policy to restrict stays

Some Iranians may forfeit studies

By Michelle Carr

President Carter's recent actions against Iran could have serious implications for UNL Iranian students, including forcing some to leave the country before earning degrees, according to Linda Becker, international student adviser.

Carter decided Monday to deny entry to the United States to almost all Iranian citizens, close Iranian embassies and refuse to renew some Iranian stays.

"These recent developments have a far more serious impact on students than anything that has happened," she said.

According to Becker, certain Iranian stays will not be extended. Stays are certificates which allow foreigners to stay in the country. Because some stays will not be renewed, Becker said some students will be forced to leave the United States before they earn their degrees.

A handout is being distributed to Iranian students to inform them how the president's decisions will affect them, Becker said.

Stays will expire

Becker said she talked to an Iranian student who needs only a few credits to receive her degree, but her stay expires in July.

Another Iranian student, Fazlollah Amirahmadi, said his stay expires in three months, making it impossible for him to finish his studies at UNL.

Obtaining money also may be more difficult for Iranian students, Becker said. The expulsion of Iranian diplomats leaves no one to certify funding, Becker said.

Currently, no procedure exists for certification of funding, Becker said, until Iran provides another procedure.

Becker said that Iranian students may witness a "squeezing out" of money coming from Iran. She said she expects no restrictions by U.S. banks on the release of funds already transferred.

Difficult to get jobs

Carter's recent policy may make it more difficult for Iranians to get jobs or retain jobs they have, Becker said, because special certificates that allow Iranians to hold jobs

may not be issued.

The invalidation of visas will also affect Iranian students. Under this policy, no Iranians will be allowed to enter the United States. Iranian students who plan to visit Iran will not be allowed to return and, likewise, friends or relatives of Iranian students will not be allowed to visit the students in the United States, Becker said.

Another complication under the new policy concerns passports. Some Iranian students have sent their passports to various Iranian embassies in the United States to be updated, Becker said, and the passports' whereabouts are not known. Becker said she hopes Iranian officials took the passports and will send them to the students.

Amirahmadi said his passport was sent to an Iranian embassy in the United States. He said he is uncertain about what will happen with his passport, but he "thinks they will send them."

Another Iranian, whose husband is an Iranian student, said Carter's policy has created uncertainty.

The new policy "scares us a lot," she said. It is unfair not to renew stays without looking at the students' background, she said.

"I know a lot of Iranians who don't agree at all with what is happening in Iran," she said. The policy of restricting stays is bad, she said, because she and her husband want to remain in the United States after he receives his degree.

daily nebraskan

friday, april 11, 1980

lincoln, nebraska vol. 104, no. 60



Photo by Mark Billingsley

Rare break

According to UNL groundskeeper Mike Herres, today is the first day his fellow students are envious of his job. Herres said UNL students were not as envious when groundskeepers were shoveling snow at 4 a.m. earlier this winter.

inside friday

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Western regental candidates want representation

By Michelle Carr

Editor's note: This is the third in a series on candidates for the NU Board of Regents.

Although their ideas and reasons for running differ, three candidates for the 6th district position of the NU Board of Regents stressed a lack of representation of western Nebraska as an important concern.

Ellis Ruby, 58, a Lisco rancher who raises Arabian horses, said the voters should have a choice between a new candidate and incumbent Regent Robert Simmons of Scottsbluff. Ruby said the district is receiving "inadequate representation from a lawyer."

Ruby said he is well-qualified to represent the district because of his affiliation with agriculture. Because Nebraska is an agricultural state, he said, university research is important.

Despite his research concern, Ruby said he is not aware of other issues facing NU because western Nebraska is not well informed about the university. However, he said, "I would do my homework and do an honest job."

Abhors unions

Ruby said the student regent's role is important.

"They can certainly bring the students' feelings and opinions that come up into focus," he said.

Concerning the AAUP movement at UNL, Ruby said his first reaction is critical. He said he "abhors" unions, but would research the situation before making a decision.

To promote an adequate budget for NU, Ruby said, "I would do anything I could."

Ruby received his bachelor's and master's degree from NU. He also received a doctorate from Texas A & M.

Economically troubled

Another candidate, Roger Macklem, 36, said he would promote better representation for the 6th district, Macklem, the principal of Bayard High School, said he would work for a better transfer program for students who attend western colleges.

He said his reason for running for the position stems from his concern that the university is economically troubled.

"We are liable to lose the university or the qualities of the university," he said.

One issue that concerns Macklem is limiting enrollment, he said. Enrollment should not be restricted because NU is the primary university in the state.

The role of student regents should be to "express the concerns of the student body and report back," he said.

Political too

Student regents also should speak out on issues that they oppose or favor, he said.

Macklem said the regents should have the final decision on NU's budget, not the Legislature.

"It should be the regents responsibility to decide the priorities and faculty salaries," he said. "It is the Legislature's responsibility for action (on the budget) not for additional cuts."

Macklem said the budget should not be a "political tool."

Macklem received a bachelor's degree in education from NU. He also received a

master's degree in science and a doctorate degree in education from UNL.

He is a former UNL education instructor and assistant professor of education at the University of Houston. He also was a consultant for the Nebraska Department of Education.

No representation

Another candidate, James Zimmerman, 33, agreed that the 6th district lacks representation. Zimmerman, a Scottsbluff attorney, said the district is missing the opportunity for leadership on the board.

The 6th district "has no representation at this point," he said.

Zimmerman, who lives in Mitchell, said Simmons represents only Scotts Bluff county and has never ventured beyond that area.

The NU Central Administration is an important issue, Zimmerman said. The system needs to be flexible, he said, and should not exhibit control by only a few administrators.

God-given right

Zimmerman said because the NU campuses are unique and have different needs, the central administration must be cautious. He suggested that the central administration be analyzed annually to check the extent of its control.

Limiting enrollment is another important issue, he said.

"I am strongly against limiting enrollment, he said. "Everyone has a God-given right to an education."

A process to eliminate students who show no desire to learn should be imple-

mented, he said.

Counter balance

Another important issue, according to Zimmerman, is Simmons' proposal to eliminate small classes. Zimmerman said he is opposed to such a proposal because some classes would be impossible to teach with a large number of students.

"To say that there should be x number of students (in a classroom) is really asinine."

Zimmerman said the student regent should act as a "counterbalance." Because the regents concentrate on university management, the student regent can relate the people's view, he said.

Students also should express ideas of spending and using student fees, he said.

Agreeable salary

Because of his age, Zimmerman said, he is in a unique position.

"I'm in the middle," he said. "I'm not a student and I'm not an old man," he said.

Zimmerman said he would identify with both students and the regents.

Zimmerman said he supports AAUP unionization. He would, however, oppose a union that "prices themselves out of jobs." He said he opposes unionization if it grows beyond its original intent of unifying faculty to be a better bargaining unit.

Zimmerman said he would strive for a mutually agreeable salary—one that is more than the university is willing to pay, but less than what the faculty requests. He said it is economically impossible to have a satisfied faculty.

Zimmerman received a bachelor's degree from UNL and a law degree from the UNL College of Law.