

# Afghan committee provides aid

By Jeanne Mohatt

NU President Ronald Roskens and Thomas Goutierre, UNO Center for Afghanistan Studies director, are members of the nation-wide Afghanistan Relief Committee.

The incorporated, non-profit organization, formed Jan. 4 and based in New York City, is helping to provide food, clothing, tents, blankets and medicine to the estimated one million Afghan refugees who have fled to Pakistan and Iran. Soviet troops invaded Afghanistan last December.

Afghanistan Relief Committees have been formed in cities throughout the United States to help raise money for the relief effort.

The ARC is cooperating with the U.S. ambassador, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and public and private relief groups in America and abroad.

President Jimmy Carter has declared July 21 through 27, the first week of the Moscow Summer Olympics, Afghanistan Relief Week. Nebraska Gov. Charles Thone has endorsed the president's proclamation.

Nebraska Sens. J. James Exon and Edward Zorinsky are two of ARC's seven honorary co-chairmen. Service Announcement spots to Lincoln's Fred Spompinato, a 26-year-old former Peace Corps volunteer in Afghanistan. Spompinato, also an ARC member, is the manager of Footlights in the Gunny's Complex, 13th and Q Streets.

The 30, 20, and 10-second PSA spots are being distributed to television and radio stations across the nation in support of Carter's proclamation. Author James Michener, an ARC co-chairman, is

Lowell Thomas and William Simon, former Treasury Secretary, are also co-chairmen. The Board of Directors includes all former U.S. ambassadors to Afghanistan, representatives from business and industry, the academic and financial world, and the arts. Board Member Robert Joffrey, of the Joffrey Ballet Company, is of Afghan descent.

In a July 4 letter to Spompinato, Mi-

the spokesman for the committee in the spots, which will be aired during Afghanistan Relief Week.

chener wrote, "We of the Afghanistan Relief Committee are urgently embarking on a \$10 million campaign to provide food, medical supplies, and services and shelter to the (Afghan) refugees...."

"This is a struggle for freedom. I am my colleagues--Senators Pell (Claiborne, of Rhode Island), Percy (Charles, of Illinois), Javits (Jacob, of New York), Zorin-

Spominato said he was in Kabul, Afghanistan's capital, when the coup that deposed President Daoud took place in April, 1978.

sky and Exon, among others--are determined to do all in our power to bring to the American consciousness the plight of these heroic people."

"There were MiG's (bombers), tanks, everything," he said.

The tanks stopped in front of the school where he was teaching, he said, and opened fire on someone. Gunfire was an everyday occurrence, however.

"I just thought, 'Now, what's going on?' he said, holding his head in his hands.

After the initial revolution, Spompinato said, an estimated 6,000 to 10,000 people were executed.

"I anticipated trouble, but nobody listened," he said. No one thought the Afghan rebels would try to resist the Soviet-backed takeover.

"The British tried three times to conquer the country and failed three times," he said.

The Afghan people, he said, "are spirited."

# Balanced federal budget is not likely —Bereuter

By Lynn Mongar

Efforts to balance the fiscal 1981 federal budget will not succeed and there probably will be a \$30 to \$40 million deficit, U.S. Rep. Doug Bereuter, R-Neb., said Tuesday.

"All the rhetoric you've heard about balancing the budget is a sham," Bereuter told about 200 persons attending a seminar on survival strategies for private business owners. The seminar was sponsored by Touche Ross & Co.

Bereuter said Congress cannot balance the federal budget with tax revenue alone.

"Because of the recession, the tax revenues behind the paper-balanced budget are not going to meet the projections," he said.

### 'Deepening recession'

The rising unemployment rate will reduce tax revenue. It will increase unemployment compensation and other aid programs, he said, thus deepening the recession.

For these reasons, he said, Congress will be "way short" of achieving a balanced budget.

"A constitutional limit on federal spending is the only way to have substantial restraint on federal spending."

Responding to a question about limiting imports, Bereuter said the import problem is most noticeable in the automotive industry.

"Most people in the business community think the auto industry ought to work itself out of this problem because of their failure to adapt to American wishes, the impact of OPEC, and their inability or unwillingness to deal with declining productivity."

### 'Pressure needed'

He said Americans should pressure Japanese governmental officials into loosening restrictions on beef and other products which are exported to Japan.

"If we're going to continue to have this country flooded with Japanese automotive products it certainly ought to work the other way as well," he said.

Responding to a question concerning the stability of the Social Security System, he said that people have forgotten the original purpose of the system.

### 'Retirement supplement'


"People have forgotten that the social security system was designed to be a retirement supplement," he said. "It was not aimed at providing all of the funds for retirement."

He said Congress also needs to strip the Social Security System of welfare-related programs which overburden it.

However, he said, the welfare services the social security system provides need to be supported with other tax revenues.

"We need to leave the social security systems for retirement supplement."

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