



Photo by Mark Billingsley

State Sen. Shirley Marsh is flanked by Pro-life supporters outside the First Christian Church where Mrs. Marsh was honored for her past Pro-choice support.

Pro-lifers challenge Marsh

State Sen. Shirley Marsh of Lincoln, the recipient of a national abortion rights award, was confronted after the awards ceremony Thursday by a group of 35 to 40 pro-life protesters.

The award, one of 12 presented by the National Religious Coalition for Abortion Right, recognized Marsh's support for religious freedom concerning the abortion issue.

Because Marsh could not be in Washington, D.C. to receive the award, the Nebraska coalition chapter honored her in a local ceremony at the First Christian Church.

After the ceremony, Marsh was confronted outside the church by the pro-life demonstrators, who attempted to explain their position on the issue.

Marsh exchanged comments with Sandy Reimer, secretary of the Lincoln Right To Life Chapter, before leaving a few minutes later.

Doug Novak, president of the UNL Students for Life group, said the pro-life protest was designed to draw media coverage of the ceremony to publicize Marsh's stand.

During the ceremony, Coalition State Coordinator Kappie Weber said Marsh "has been outstanding"

during her eight years on the appropriations committee in promoting religious liberty concerning abortions.

Weber called Marsh "courageous" and said Marsh has remained very supportive of the coalition's cause, despite strong opposition from various anti-abortion groups.

The Religious Coalition for Abortion Rights is an interdenominational group of 27 religious organizations which support the pro-choice abortion stance. The Nebraska chapter was recognized in January 1979.

In a statement later in the day, Marsh told the Daily Nebraskan, "I was aware that persons share different points of view and am grateful that in this country we can present different points of view."

"I am emphasizing that we need to protect our right of freedom from religious beliefs. Each of us have different religious beliefs and this right needs to be protected."

Marsh said she was not surprised by the presence of the picketers, adding that she is "grateful that we have freedom to protest in this country."

Students may lose federal financing

By Patti Gallagher

About 7,000 to 8,000 UNL students could lose federal grants or loans they are receiving because Congress failed to approve a major financial aids bill, said Don Aripoli, director of scholarships and financial aids at UNL.

The Reauthorization of the Higher Education Bill is presently dead in the U.S. Senate, Aripoli said. Both Nebraska Sens. J. James Exon and Edward Zorinsky voted against the bill, HR5192.

Aripoli said that more than 18 months' efforts have the total federal price of the bill.

"There are about six different sets of figures floating around. Pick your position," he said. "Different sides determine different numbers."

The bill will establish policies for all forms of federal financial aid for the next five years. Legislation set by the bill will determine eligibility for financial aid as well as the amounts and conditions for loans and grants.

The programs being considered in the bill include the Basic Educational Opportunity Grant, the Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant, the Federally Insured Student Loans, the College Work Study program, the National Division of Student Loans, and the Guaranteed Student Loans.

Aripoli said that more than 18 month's efforts have gone into the making of the education bill. He said the general consensus of the financial aids community is that the bill protects various interests, and illustrates an "enhancement to financial aids, rather than a drastic change in programs."

Aripoli said the bill was killed in Congress because it was not acceptable to both the House of Representatives and the Senate.

The House passed the bill 373-16 but the Senate defeated it 45-43.

According to Aripoli, opposition to the bill was based almost exclusively on the cost of student loans. But, figures from a fact sheet circulated by the United States Student Association states that \$2.3 billion would be saved over the five-year period, if the bill were passed.

Aripoli said the Department of Health, Education and Welfare began gathering testimony and information in 1979 from school administrators to form legislation. From then until the spring of 1980, both the House and the Senate accepted testimony from the general public.

Legislation was then drafted separately in both houses in October 1979, and the Senate appointed a conference commission to compare the bills and resolve differences between them.

The commission found 138 differences between the separate bills, and resolved them to form HR5192. The bill was completed in August of 1980 and the Senate killed it Sept. 4.

Aripoli said two options are now open to the Congress.

One would allow Congress to amend HR5192 to make it acceptable to both the House and Senate. The other route would be to appoint another conference commission to restructure the bill.

Aripoli said that if Congress chooses the second route and the same members were reappointed to the commission, it might be possible to pass the bill before Congress recesses Oct. 4. If new commission members are appointed, the bill may be postponed until after January, he said.

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Meat shortage cited as a major embargo effect

By Mary Kempkes

The U.S. grain embargo imposed on the Soviet Union did not have the effect officials hoped for but more of an impact than Midwestern farmers believe, according to a Soviet agricultural expert.

The embargo caused a meat shortage and dissent among the Soviet people, said Dr. Karl-E. Wadekin, who studied Eastern European and Soviet agriculture for several years. Wadekin, recognized as one of the world's experts on Soviet agriculture, is from the Center for Continental Agriculture and Economics Research, University of Giessen, W. Germany.

Wadekin said U.S. officials expected too much from the embargo. It did not cause bread shortages or starvation.

"The central issue is meat consumption. It is essentially all about feed grain for livestock," he said.

Because most of the grain sold to Russia by the United States is used for livestock feeding, the embargo caused long

lines at market meat counters, Wadekin said.

In fact, immediately after Jimmy Carter's announcement January 4, millions of hogs, sheep and cattle from Soviet herds were slaughtered since it was questionable whether there would be enough grain to feed them through the year, he said.

The Soviets were not able to replace all of the U.S. grain through other countries as widely believed, he said. Only 10 to 13 million tons of the 17 million withheld was replaced through the aid of other countries, he said, leaving a 5 to 7 million-ton deficit, enough to upset their livestock market, Wadekin said.

Neither were the Soviets able to rely on stockpiles of grain from a 1978 bumper harvest, he said, because most of that grain was depleted by a 1979 drought.

Also, because of poor animal husbandry and farm management, Wadekin said, it takes 8 million tons of grain to produce meat in the Soviet Union. The ratio is 4 to

1 in the United States, he said.

The embargo caused unhappiness among Soviet civilians, he said, because meat supply was already in critical shape before the cutback.

Wadekin criticized American officials for bungling the affair and said the embargo would have been more effective if a previous agreement would have been reached with Canada.

"It was done in too great of haste," he said. "The administration did not check in advance with other major grain exporters like Canada and then just expected them to join in afterwards."

"The embargo was not a mistake necessarily but it could have been handled more skillfully."

President Carter could have reduced complaints from the Midwest, he said, if the government would have bought up surplus grains earlier as promised. As it was, the United States did not buy farmers' grain until May, after many had panicked and sold their grain at low prices.

Wadekin commented on the use of food as a weapon and implied that generally it was ineffective.

"You can make half the population of Iran starve and the government will still exist. But take cars away from Americans and the government will not survive."

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