

friday, september 26, 1980



Photo by Jon Natvig

Peter Levitov, director of International Educational Services.

## Inflation seen as minor in foreign student concerns

By Colleen Tittel

American inflation apparently isn't impeding the educations of UNL's foreign students, nor is it noticeably hampering their lifestyles, according to International Educational Services Director Peter Levitov.

"There's not a perceptible difference in spending patterns of foreign students now and five years ago," Levitov said.

One factor that helps foreign students remain afloat financially despite escalating prices, Levitov said, is the IES office's yearly updated allotment certificate for students' estimated living and tuition costs.

Many countries restrict the amount of money their students can export to a figure approximating IES's cost estimates, he said. These are not poverty-level estimates, but they conform to a minimum level at which students can live, he said.

**RECREATION COSTS**, summer vacation costs and other incidentals are automatically considered, he said. Later, certificate can be adjusted to provide for class trips, pregnancies, or other expenses.

Foreign students in 1980 require an average of \$8000 for a year of school and living, Levitov said. Money is received in one check each year.

"Some people can handle it and some people can't," Levitov said. His office provides financial counseling for foreign students who have troubles spreading the money over the year.

Cash restrictions post a particular problem for student from wealthy families, who find it hard to tailor their lifestyle to an \$8,000 budget, Levitov said.

"PEOPLE COME in here freely and say,

'Please put down an extra \$9000 a year. There's a car I want to buy,'" he said. Such a request will not be granted, he added.

Many students, however, do not have money restrictions to contend with.

"There are students who can afford to bring money here far in excess of what we determine their needs are," Levitov said.

As far as he knows, Levitov said, export limitations have not been a source of trouble for any foreign student at UNL. And UNL is not as expensive as a private institution, but because of some nations' slow-moving bureaucracies, some upper-classmen may be bound to allotments of their first years, he said.

Also, some students attend school through graduate assistanceship programs, and so are dependent upon the UNL budget, Levitov said.

**RARELY WILL** a foreign student find his or her money cut off, Levitov said.

"There are occasional students who are left in the lurch by persons who promised to sponsor them. These people have a real difficult time," he said.

Iranian students this semester will be under tighter financial control, Levitov said. The current regime is controlling what it considers excessive exports of money.

"Years ago, during the shah's regime, people could just write home and say, 'Dad, send me money,'" Levitov said.

Now, the government considers the students' majors, immigrant status and number of credit hours when allotting money, and those factors will be adhered to more closely this semester, Levitov said. A \$1000 limit for full-time students is being imposed. Levitov said he does not know how many students actually will be affected by the recent tightening.

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