

Time mix-up results in solo debate for Warner

By Steve Miller

About 20 members of the Lincoln Chamber of Commerce Tuesday heard what might be called a one-sided political debate.

The Chamber of Commerce had scheduled a debate between State Sen. Jerome Warner of Waverly and Everett Sileven, Warner's opponent for the 25th district legislative seat.

The scheduled debate did not occur, however, because Sileven did not appear for the 7:30 a.m. meeting. A Chamber of Commerce member said Sileven had misread his invitation and thought the debate was to be Tuesday evening.

Instead of debating, Warner gave his views and answered questions. The Chamber of Commerce spokesman said that to be fair, he would mail Sileven's answers to the questions to those present at the debate. Sileven answered the questions on the telephone.

Warner said that the 15 percent cut in state spending, as outlined by Gov. Thone's Governmental Reorganization Committee, seems reasonable, but he did not think it will happen.

Although the state should look at all ways to cut spending, Warner said, the inflation rate probably would outweigh a 15 percent cut.

He said the biggest question concerning appropriations is whether emphasis should be given to increased aid programs or to more support of state agencies.

'Cripple agencies'

"I can't support an increase in state aid if such an increase might cripple existing state agencies," Warner said.

Saying that he is against repealing the right to work statute, Warner said he doesn't think the statute is anti-

union. The statute prohibits mandatory enrollment in unions.

"I would not want to be compelled to join any organization, nor do I think anyone else would," Warner said.

Asked to describe what he thought would be fair taxation, the senator replied, "The one the other guy pays."

Warner said if he could work from scratch, he would try to tax as many sources as possible at a very low rate.

"A tax burden becomes unbearable only when it is too heavy," Warner said.

Sales tax fair

He added that he thinks the present sales tax is fair and supports retaining the current food tax credit.

In addition, the incumbent candidate said he thinks the 7 percent lid law has succeeded in restraining costs in local government and has brought about evaluations of programs that wouldn't have been done otherwise.

The main problem with the spending lid is inflation, Warner said, adding that he thinks prudent political subdivisions have been hurt.

Warner said he doesn't expect much to change in the lid law. However, there might be some emphasis on exemptions during the next legislative session, he said.

Warner said his position on energy and water resources may sound like he doesn't take a stand on water issues.

"I support a broad policy. Everybody ought to have the right to utilize water under their own soil when that use doesn't decrease a neighbor's right to do so," he said.

Warner also said he doesn't support tax exemptions for energy efficiency because he has reservations on any exemptions.

He also said he favors keeping state employee wages



Daily Nebraskan photo

Sen. Jerome Warner of Waverly

down, but would like to see salaries comparable with those in private industry to attract quality employees.

CU president says nation's economy is fragile

By Kim Hachiya

The U.S. economy is in a state of fragility, according to a former economic adviser of Richard Nixon, now the president of the University of Colorado.

Arnold Weber, who was named CU president in February, spoke in the Nebraska Union Ballroom Tuesday morning as part of the E.J. Faulkner lecture series.

At a press conference before the lecture, Weber said the U.S. economy's fragility stems in part from high-interest rates, a deflationary tax policy, the effects of an economic downturn in Europe and outside factors such as the Iran-Iraq war, the summer drought and other uncontrollable events.

He said the economy just weathered an intense recession, which was short by historical standards.

"Most post-war (WWII) recessions have averaged about 11 months," he said. "But this one began in January and apparently ended in July. There is a significant

probability that the recovery will be aborted and now into a period of sluggishness."

Weber said he doubted the recession will spark the economy or lower inflation.

"If the purpose of the recession is to dampen inflation, it was worthless. Lots of people were thrown out of work and the inflation drop was merely an aberration of the mortgage rates," he said.

"The recession may have been necessary, but the economic and social costs were very high."

Weber hesitated to directly criticize President Carter's recently-released economic indicator statistics.

"It's difficult to speak non-politically so I'll remain silent, you can draw your own inferences," he said. "I served during a different incarnation, so it's easy to stand on the sidelines and make astute comments."

"I think, however, that the timing before an election creates an understandable sense of unease. I think it showed not very good judgement."

Weber recommended that the economy attempt to impose self discipline through a balanced budget and stringent expenditure policy. He said he also sees a need for a greater emphasis on capital reinvestment and a sound energy policy.

He said a tax cut would be inappropriate during an intense pre-election period, saying it would be difficult to formulate sound policy due to political pressures.

Weber said he thought his role as an economist had relevance to his position as the CU president.

"Ten years ago, a university president was picked for his capacity to deal with student protests. Today, universities are beset with economic problems like other institutions. An economist's role is clearly relevant."

Weber said his management experience was helpful in handling problems in the CU athletic department, and he was critical of recent publicity, including an article in this week's *Sports Illustrated*.

The article concerned CU's recent deletion of six sports from its athletic program because of severe budget limitations and outlined a series of NCAA infractions and alleged over-expenditures by CU Head Football Coach Chuck Fairbanks.

Weber said, "Most of the events antedated my arrival on the scene, such as the Fairbanks hiring, and the NCAA infractions. The publicity makes interesting, but unappealing reading that hasn't helped the university or its posture in the state. Much of the public events are those which we have undertaken to bring the situation under control."

"The *Sports Illustrated* article is a rehash and distortion of five-to six-month-old facts. It has an erroneous and almost gleeful approach to the facts that high quality professionals are working on correcting hard times. It may titillate *Sports Illustrated's* readers, but it doesn't accurately reflect the position of our university."

Weber said UNL has been fortunate to "have been saved by a highly successful football program and the support of the entire state for University of Nebraska athletics."

Weber said despite CU's deletion of six sports, the university is still committed to athletic excellence.

Continued on Page 3

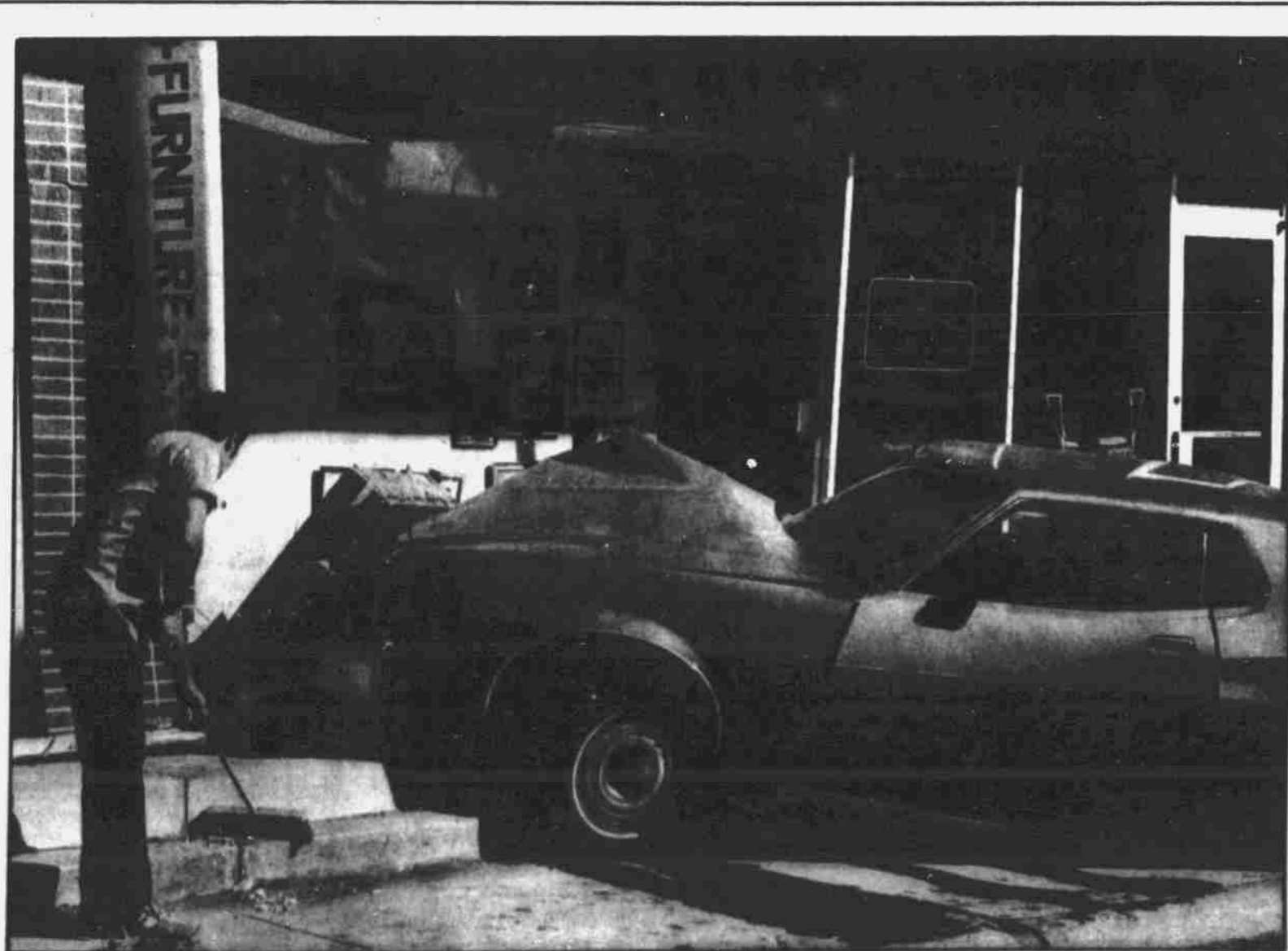


Photo by Mitch Hrdlicka

The display window and framework of B & L Used & New Furniture & Antiques, 1230 South St., was destroyed Tuesday after a car hit the building. Betty Larson, owner of the store, said the amount of damage was not yet known. Some furniture was also destroyed, she said.

inside wednesday

And if you deposit \$1 million: Area banks and savings and loan companies entice customers through gifts . Page 7
Zoo Story: Manager Larry Boehmer reflects on all the friendly animals that have made the Zoo a longtime popular nightspot Page 8
Second String Superstar: 1-back Craig Johnson prepares for his first start of the season, replacing the injured Jarvis Redwine Page 10