

daily nebraskan

Party involvement stressed as political cornerstone

My Mary Kempkes

The Nebraska legislature needs a two-party system or it will grow harder to recruit good candidates for state senators, according to Democratic and Republican leaders.

Nonpartisan elections contribute to the voter apathy because they, according to DiAnna Schimek, chairperson of the state Democratic party. Schimek and David Heineman, executive director of the Republican state party, spoke to the League of Women Voters Thursday night about the need for political party involvement and its contribution to the electoral process.

"The two party system is the cornerstone of democracy," Heineman said. The system gave Americans freedom of speech

and paved the way for an orderly election process, he said.

The two-party system also provides an outlet for party platforms and discussion of issues, Heineman and Schimek agreed.

And voters should vote according to the candidates' stands on the issues and not because "He's such a nice family man or look at that nice smile," said Lincoln Mayor Helen Boosalis who opened the meeting.

Some people maintain voting by appearances is as good a way as any rational method, Boosalis said, so they won't vote at all.

And a large percentage of voters this year will say they don't like the choices of-

ferred, particularly in the presidential race, Boosalis said, so they won't vote at all.

"That's a cop out. Because in the final analysis, . . . one has to be better than the other."

The solution to the problem of voter apathy is political participation in the party system, Boosalis said.

But the two-party system has its disadvantages, Heineman said. Because it is two-party, Independent candidates such as John Anderson find it virtually impossible to run for office. It's hard for the Democrats and Republican parties to organize support in Nebraska, Heineman said, so a third party must find it impossible, he said. Schimek advocated other reforms in the

Nebraska political system. Senators should get a pay raise next year, she said, because western and central Nebraska legislators are plagued by a budget that doesn't cover travel expenses or compensate for wages lost while away from home.

Schimek said Nebraska should give some monetary support to the political parties as does the federal government. She proposed that the Nebraska income tax form allow for a \$1 donation to the election system as does the federal form.

The cost of campaigning is increasing because, as Heineman pointed out, television advertising is a must for a candidate. Heineman said recent polls showed 60 to 70 percent of the people said they based their vote on television advertisements, the most expensive form of campaigning.



Photo by Mark Billingsley

Cirrus clouds veiled the sky Thursday, bringing with them Indian summer weather. These high-flying symbols of fair weather seem to be doing the trick as the Nebraska climate remains mild.

Student opinions sought on radial

By Patti Gallagher

An ad-hoc committee will be formed to determine student opinion on the proposed building of the Northeast Radial and present that stand to the Lincoln City Council Oct. 27.

The committee will include members of ASUN, RHA and possibly some Greek houses, ASUN First Vice President Mark Hirschfeld said.

The formation of a committee was supported Wednesday night at the ASUN Senate meeting, after an open forum of nearly three hours. During open forum, two speakers from the city, one university official and several community speakers presented their views on the radial.

City Councilman Eric Youngberg spoke supporting the "no build" alternative for the radial.

He said the radial defies all logic and reasoning, "since it was designed nearly 30 years ago to encourage development of the northeast portion of Lincoln.

The part of the city is now called the Malone and Clinton area and is all ready a well-developed community, he said.

Youngberg also said that 13 years ago the city began burning down houses to begin construction on the radial, yet, in 1980, no construction has been completed.

Speaking for the university was UNL Business Manager Ray Coffey. Coffey outlined the NU Board of Regents' stand on the issue, as presented in their 1968 long-range plan for the university.

Coffey said that if the northeast radial were built, which is yet to be decided by the City Council, the regents have said it should be built east of campus boundaries.

This route, called the 22nd Street Corridor, would begin at 16th and Q streets, and curve parallel to the west side of 22nd street.

This proposal is favored by the regents, Coffey said, because it would not obstruct university-owned land.

Some of that land, he said, is pinpointed in the long-range plan for university expansions. Coffey could not answer, however, when and if expansion would be necessary.

However, according to ASUN senator Laura Burkland, the student population will decline in coming years, so securing university land for expansion purposes is misleading. NU's need to expand will decrease with enrollment levels, she said.

The ad-hoc committee will probably meet with both city and university personnel next week, Hirschfeld said, to receive more information on the alternative plans for the radial.

They will meet a second time to formulate a unified stand to present to the City Council. The council has scheduled a public hearing Oct. 27 to discuss the radial.

ASUN President Renee Wessels requested that Coffey or another NU official, be a member of the ad-hoc committee. Coffey accepted the request.

Also addressing the senate about the Northeast Radial was Bob Snow, a representative from Lincoln Public Works Department, and two neighborhood association leaders.

ASUN Kent State bill is revised

By Patti Gallagher

Although the proposed investigation of Nu president Ronald Roskens' role in the Kent State killings in 1970 was stopped by ASUN "political flap last week" according to one senator, the bill passed in a revised form at Wednesday night's senate meeting.

The bill, submitted by ASUN's Special Topics Committee, specified that an ad-hoc committee be appointed to investigate the NU Central Administration.

According to Sen. Tim Rinne, the bill that passed is essentially the same as one killed last week in Special Topics. The only change was the omission of Roskens' name and the Kent State incidents.

The motivation of the bill is to reveal the power structure of Central Administration, Rinne said. He said the ad-hoc committee will include the Kent State killings in its investigation.

Rinne said that he and at least two other ASUN senators will form the committee and present a report to the Senate. He said they hope to complete the report by Nov. 1, Students Day.

A book by James A. Michener, author of Centennial, has provided much information, he said.

The book, "Kent State, What Happened and Why,"

details Roskens' role at Kent State at the time of the killings, according to Rinne. Roskens' was a vice president at the Ohio university when national guardsmen killed four students in May of 1970.

According to Michener's book, Roskens' was not responsible for calling the national guard. He instead deferred all decisions to local Ohio officials.

Rinne said Roskens is guilty of "sins of omission" for not attempting to respond to the students revolt. The lines of communication that failed to work then are failing to work now at NU, he said.

Rinne also said the attempts made by Kent State faculty to resolve problems ten years ago were not answered by administrators. A parallel exists at NU today, he said, in that a faculty resolutions presented last year attempting to dissolve the Central Administration have been ineffective.

The faculty resolutions were answered with a report from Roskens' office, which Rinne called "an investigation of Ronald Roskens by Ronald Roskens."

Rinne said the committee will use a second book in compiling its report. The book, "Kent State and May Fourth, A Social Science Perspective" analyzes other reports issued about the Kent State killings. It was published in 1978.