

Exon urged to vote for higher education funding

By Betsy Miller

The phones at Nebraska Senator James Exon's Lincoln office were ringing yesterday with people concerned with the future of student grants at UNL.

Ann Block, a member of the UNL Government Liaison Committee, said that GLC and ASUN members were encouraging people to call Exon's office and urge the senator to vote for the Senate portion of the national budget in the area of higher education funding.

Both the House and Senate passed their version of a fiscal budget recently and, according to Block, the Congressional budget contains much more money allocated for higher education, particularly student grants.

As it stands now, students can get a maximum of

\$1,900 in Basic Education Opportunity Grants, Block said.

The House's budget set the maximum at \$1,800 for next year, while the Senate's would reduce the BEOG by \$50-135 per student this year and up to \$165 next year, she said.

Guaranteed student loans have been allocated \$2.03 billion by the House, but only \$1.6 billion by the Senate, according to Block.

The reductions in funding by the Senate were revealed Wednesday in the budget.

Joe Sweeney, an officer in the United States Student Association and the National Student Education Fund, contacted ASUN Wednesday to urge the body to take action to let elected leaders know how they felt, Block

said. ASUN was urging concerned students, faculty, parents and anyone else to call Exon's office and urge the senator to consider the Senate's budget, she said.

Exon is important to contact because he is a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee and the Conference Committee, Block said.

As a member of the Conference Committee, Exon will help decide on a budget which is a compromise between the Senate and Congressional versions.

Block said she thinks that Exon will pay attention to the large number of phone calls he received.

ASUN and the Residence Hall Association sent mailgrams urging Exon to accept the Senate version, Block said.

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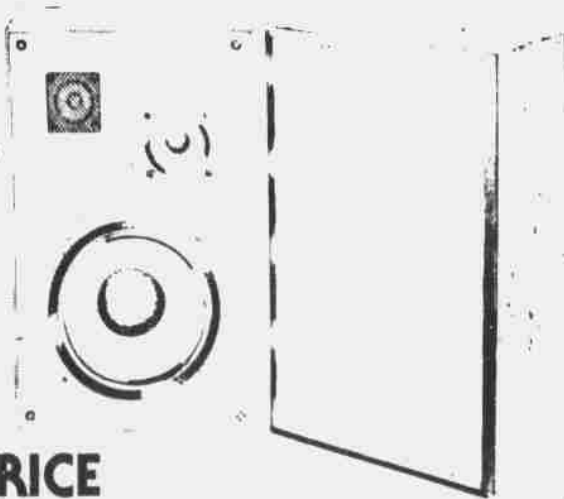
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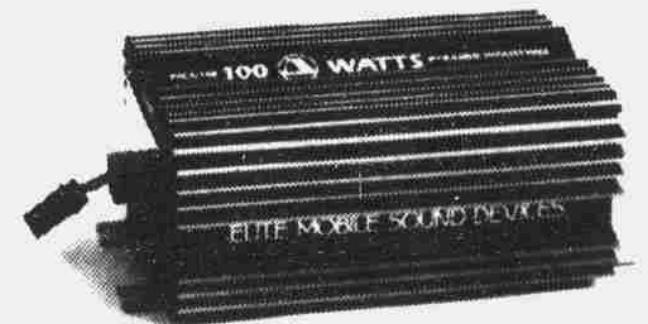
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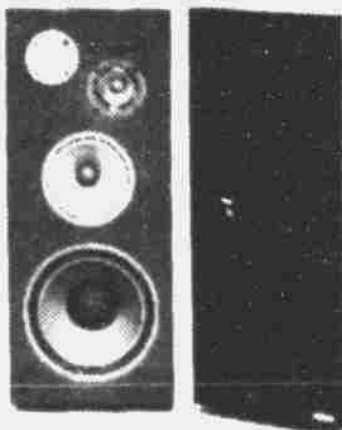
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