

## Radial spokespeople agree dispute 'too lengthy'

By Melanie Gray

Whether Lincoln voters decide April 7 to build the northeast Radial or not, two adversaries agreed Wednesday the dispute has gone on too long.

Richard Sutton, co-chairman of Citizens Against Radial Expenditures, and Duane Funk, a member of the Lincoln Citizens Association, said the issue has kept the Clinton and Malone neighborhoods from starting revitalization projects.

Funk, a radial supporter, said block grants and self-help groups have revitalized many neighborhoods except for those the radial would pass through.

"The neighborhoods have been held in limbo too long," said Sutton, an opponent of the radial and five-year resident of the Clinton neighborhood.

Sutton said the city's estimated \$17 million price tag should prevent citizens from voting for the project. With

President Reagan's proposed budget cuts, he said, Lincoln probably won't receive any federal funds for the radial.

Without federal funds, he said, the only way to finance the diagonal would be through a bond issue. Interest payments on the bond, he said, would have to come out of the city's general fund, requiring higher property taxes.

Funk said the proposed radial is a "necessary city utility" because of steady car use and decreased car occupancy.

Other points discussed included what voters should base their decisions on.

Sutton said, "Citizens should vote using their common sense. There is no such thing as building a road without tax money."

Funk said, "People should be aware of the background and history of the radial."

"You can't vote without being familiar with an issue," he said.

Concerning justified additional costs, Funk said, "I don't believe cost is an issue, although Mr. Sutton is trying to make it an issue. The radial is designed now as economically as possible."

"There are too many expenditures already," Sutton said. "Not just money, but in people's houses. None (of the expenditures) is justified."

Alternatives if the proposal doesn't pass also were addressed. Funk said the only alternative is to improve existing facilities.

"I think the alternatives are really exciting," Sutton said. "It would force us to confront our problems—not just locally but nationally. There's carpooling, buses, alternative routes such as P and Q streets and flexible time—bosses can decide which personnel can come earlier and which later."

The debate was sponsored by the Lincoln Chamber of Commerce City-County Affairs Committee.

## State senator expects 12.5 percent budget hike

By Mary Louise Knapp

Chances are slim the Nebraska Legislature will accept NU's request for an 18 percent budget increase, State Sen. Chris Beutler said Wednesday.

Beutler, an Education Committee member, said the Legislature probably will accept Gov. Charles Thone's recommendation of a 12.5 percent budget increase.

Beutler said he believed Thone had been "generous" in his budget recommendation.

"Twelve percent is high for the governor," he said, adding Thone previously had considered only a 7 percent increase for NU.

"There are lots of areas where we (the Legislature) have been unfair," Beutler said, citing examples of state employees who have been held to an 8 percent or 9 percent salary increase.

"If we have high allocations to NU also, that will make even more of a tight squeeze," he said.

Beutler said he is against appropriating funds for a new veterinary college at UNL.

He said the number of students that would be educated at the proposed regional college would be about the same as those now educated at veterinary colleges in the Midwest.

If additional slots were made available to Nebraska students, the college could cost as much as \$5.5 million a year, he said.

"I don't think the proponents of the

college have been totally honest with us about it," Beutler said.

He said he doubted federal funds or money from private sources would be provided for the project, as originally planned.

"If private industry and federal funds pay what they're supposed to, it might work," he said.

Under the proposed funding plan, state funds, federal funds and private donations would each pay for one-third of the project.

Beutler said NU may spend up to \$1.3 million for planning alone before it is certain federal funds will be available.

If that happens, he said, the veterinary college will be the most expensive project ever undertaken by NU.

Beutler said at present the Legislature has no plans to deal with possible cuts in federal funds for student loans and grants.

"Since we do not know the size of the cuts, and because cuts are coming in all areas of the budget, it is difficult to anticipate what will happen," he said.

If necessary, a special session of the Legislature might be called to consider the proposed cuts, he said.

"It might be possible for the state to pick up some of the federal funds that would be cut," he said.

A bill providing for state aid to gifted children in the public schools was recently advanced to the floor of the Legislature, Beutler said.

The bill also designates some state funds for vocational education, he said.



Photo by Jon Natvig

State Sen. Chris Beutler of Lincoln spoke at the Nebraska Union Tuesday.

## Regents to consider enrollment limits, class cuts

By D. Eric Kircher

The NU Board of Regents will hear at its Saturday meeting reports from university officials on how they are carrying out the Five-Year Plan.

The administration was asked to develop a plan to find and eliminate duplicate or unnecessary classes.

UNL administrators have identified 567 possible classes to cut, but none have been cut yet.

The board will receive a plan from the universities to limit the number of students in a class. The recommendations range from 20 students a class for 100- and 200-level courses to 10 students in 400 or 800 level classes and other graduate classes.

The plan will also recommend how often a class should be offered. Some classes may be offered each semester and others only once in two or three years.

Another policy being investigated would allow the administration to drop a class after "two or three days" if too many students drop it. Currently classes are dropped if not enough students register.

ASUN President Rick Mockler said he would investigate the UNL recommendations to see how they would affect students.

"My goal is to find out what the courses are," he said.

### Student involvement

"This has been drawn up pretty much by the administration on the campus," Mockler said. "I think it's been drawn up fairly so far."

Some academic changes studied without student involvement haven't been fair, Mockler said, mentioning the recent laboratory fee addition. The Academic Affairs Committee studied the fees—which were approved last month—and refused student involvement.

The administrators did involve faculty members in the Five-Year Plan study, Mockler said.

The plans are "reaching the stage where student input is going to start making a difference," Mockler said.

"This meeting for me, as a student regent, is going to be ideal," Mockler said. "I can get a feeling for things without any major battles. I think the major business is going to be the other campuses."

Mockler is looking to future board meetings.

"Personally, I would like to work on some long-term planning on the budget," he said. "We wait until the meeting to react to it."

Students need to be involved in planning the budget before the regents approve it, Mockler said.

He said he wants to organize a faculty-student coalition to advocate higher faculty salaries.

### Legal service expansion

Another goal for Mockler is convincing the regents to allow the ASUN student legal services lawyers to argue student cases in court.

"I think it's time we expand those services," Mockler said.

The regents originally approved the service on a trial basis, Mockler said, but now that they know that it works,

he said, they should expand the lawyer's power to help students.

Any student legal service expansion would require the regents' approval.

The Government Liaison Committee also will expand its role in lobbying for more federal financial aid.

"We're going to have to take a stand," Mockler said.

UNL students hadn't organized before a U.S. Senate vote last year, Mockler said, and the nation's students lost \$1 billion in federal aid.

UNO President Florene Langford was to introduce a bill to require a non-binding vote for the student regent, but the regents she questioned weren't very favorable to her plan, Langford said. She will introduce the plan in the future if its chances of passing improve, she said.

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