

# daily nebraskan

## Proxmire awards Golden Fleece to Government

By Beth Headrick

The Reagan administration's budget cuts need to be more decisive and directed toward different targets, Senator William Proxmire said. Anti-trust policy, wage-price guidelines and economic discipline provided through competition currently are weak, and feed rather than starve the rate of inflation, he said.

Famous for his "Golden Fleece Award" given for wasteful spending of tax money, the Wisconsin senator's speech was sponsored by the University Program Council's Talks and Topics Committee.

Speaking at the Nebraska Union, Sunday night, Proxmire said he agrees that inflation is the nation's number one problem, but that it has no single cause. Calling the Milton Friedman "simple monetary phenomenon" solution unrealistic, Proxmire said, it takes more to decrease inflation than reducing the rate of increase in the supply of money.

Slowing down the increase of money puts a tremendous crunch on the economy when the government is running on the deficit it is now, he said. It might work in the long run but in the meantime, the prime lending rate would probably go up 50 percent, there'd be a paralysis in the construction industry and unemployment would go up 15 or 20 percent, he said.

Instead, the American people, with the help of Congress, have to learn to fall back on Puritan notions and say "no."

Pointing to unnecessary Federal spending, Proxmire said it was a sad mistake to bail out the Chrysler Corporation.

If they had declared bankruptcy they could have continued with the many plants they have across the country, most of these plants have a guaranteed market, he said.

"Bailing out New York City was like providing sand for the Sahara Desert," he said.

New York banks have \$200 billion in assets. They didn't need the Federal government to bail them out, they could have done it themselves, he said.

Bailing out cities is flagrant waste, he said. The Federal government spent \$85 billion last year, 10 times the cost of the Marshall Plan, helping cities that should've helped themselves, he said.

Although U.S. anti-trust laws are among the strongest, they still aren't strong enough to break up monopolistic pricing, he said. Using the steel and auto industries as



Photo by Mark Billingsley

Senator William Proxmire spoke at the Nebraska Union Sunday night.

examples, Proxmire said if one oil company increases its prices the others now match this increase. This contradicts one of America's great price regulators—competition.

To overcome this problem, Proxmire suggests encouraging free trade and foreign competition. Japan's auto industry provides U.S. auto manufacturer's with the competition they need to keep prices down and provide a better automobile, he said.

Generally Proxmire said he agrees with the Reagan/Stockman emphasis on increased military spending. However, the areas receiving the money are misdirected, he said.

The Pentagon wastes money on complicated machinery when it needs to pay people better, increase the basic hardware production of planes, tanks and ships and have a readier military force, including National Guard and reserve, he said.

"The MX missile system is a complete turkey. It's complex and expensive, when our sea-launch ballistic missile system is already very effective," he said.

The Soviet Union has 50 percent more planes, three times more ships and four times as many tanks as the United States has, he said.

One fighter plane now costs \$25 million when it should only be five or six million," he said. These planes are super fast and armor-plated but with increasing cost rates, the U.S. will only be able to afford one a year.

"When I watched the space shuttle this morning, all I could think of is there goes \$20 billion," he said.

Proponents of the space shuttle say it will be an important defense to the United States, but Proxmire said it's not true. He said when he called Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger before the Senate Appropriations Committee asking why the costs of the project couldn't have been shifted to the Pentagon, Weinberger said there was no way the Pentagon could justify it in its budget.

Space exploration may be important, but it could be postponed another two years while inflation wounds heal, Proxmire said.

## Experts: Middle East woven into global web

By Tom Prentiss

Three experts in Soviet relations discussed Soviet intentions in the Middle East Friday at a forum of the Middle East Symposium.

Dr. Vernon Asaturian, Dr. Alvin Rubenstein and Dr.

Trond Gilberg told the audience what Soviet intentions are in the Middle East and how they were formulated.

Rubenstein, a professor at the University of Pennsylvania, said the Middle East should be divided into four areas when discussing Soviet intentions.

They were the non-Arab Moslem speaking countries of

Turkey, Iran and Afghanistan, and Arab-Israeli area, the Persian Gulf and Arabian peninsula and the North African tier.

Rubenstein said interests in these areas have all developed differently. He said changes the Soviets have made result from a shift in continental to global policy in the region.

Asaturian, of Pennsylvania State University, agreed and said Soviet moves are interrelated within a global framework.

When the Soviets decide to make a foreign policy move regarding a country, they always consider the effects it will have throughout the world, he explained.

The best example of Soviet manipulation, said Asaturian, was how they managed to move 40,000 troops from Cuba to Angola.

Asaturian said movements into Angola and the Horn of Africa failed to produce world reaction, but with the invasion of Afghanistan, everyone suddenly became worried about Soviet expansion.

It was the Soviet way of showing that "you pick them (countries) up if they might be useful to you, even though they may not be useful at the present time," he said.

He blamed much of the Soviet risk-free attitude on the lax policies of the Carter administration.

Rubenstein said the Soviet leaders are now more realistic about unpredictability in the region.

He said the Soviet Union has benefited from being a strong ally. Since 1967, the Soviets have never reneged on any desire to help an ally they thought they could win benefits from, he said.

They even went as far, he said, as to risk a confrontation with the United States in 1973 during the Yom Kippur War between Egypt and Israel.

The key to understanding Soviet intent in the area is to recognize the Soviet goal of undermining the U.S. presence, he said.

Asaturian said it is easy to characterize the Soviets as having a "grand design" concept as part of their foreign policy.

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Photo by Jon Natvig

Mac Whitney's sculpture, "Tarkio," is on display outside the Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery as a part of the Great Plains Sculpture Exhibition. The circular illusion in this photograph was created by a fish eye lens. For additional pictures of Tarkio, see Page 6, and for a story on the sculptor, see Page 8.

monday

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**Whodunit Whiz:** Reviewer praises George V. Higgins' latest defective fiction work, *The Rat on Fire*, for its witty dialogue and character development . . . . . Page 8

**Champions:** The UNL women's softball team won first place in its own tournament Sunday with a 1 to 0 win against Minnesota. . . . . Page 10