

# Vietnam issues moved professor to try politics

By Tom Prentiss

UNL economics professor Wallace Peterson would like to have only two professions.

One is that of college professor, which he has been for 30 years. The other is that of U.S. senator, a job he has been a candidate for twice.

Peterson said he became active in Democratic Party politics as opposition to the Vietnam War intensified.

The Vietnam War was the divisive issue at the Democratic County Convention in 1968, he said.

After his election to the platform committee for the first time, Peterson presented the anti-war minority

plank to the convention. Although he was heavily booed and the plank lost, Peterson said it was an "eye-opening experience."

**Democratic nomination**  
The experience encouraged him to consider running for the Democratic nomination for U.S. senator, he said. Incumbent Republican Roman Hruska had no clear cut challenger, so Peterson thought his chances were as good as anyone else's.

Although Peterson thought he would get the nomination, he really didn't think he could beat Hruska, he said. Still, he thought that as the nominee he would have an advantage in

two years when the seat of Republican Carl Curtis was up for re-election.

Gene Pokorny, a former worker for Democratic Presidential Candidate Eugene McCarthy in 1968, helped to organize Peterson's campaign.

Pokorny later went on to be George McGovern's Nebraska campaign manager for the Democratic candidate's ill-fated 1972 campaign.

Peterson said his group raised about \$10,000 and appeared to be the front-runner for the nomination. He said his only real opposition would have been former Gov. Frank Morrison, who had already said he

wouldn't run.

**Frantic drive**

But on the last day to file for the primary, Morrison changed his mind and entered the race.

Peterson said Morrison drove frantically from Omaha to Lincoln so he could meet the deadline. Morrison filed just "a minute or so" before the deadline and Peterson said he then knew he would lose the primary.

With the former two-term governor in the race, Peterson polled close to 25 percent of the vote in a losing effort.

Peterson said he thought he still had a chance to make a good race against

Curtis two years later, but his plans fell through.

That good chance drifted away as the political winds blew Scottsbluff Sen. Terry Carpenter from the Republican to the Democratic fold.

Carpenter, who was to make party changing an art form, then became the front-runner.

In his second run for the nomination, Peterson lost again, but this time by only 3,000 votes.

Since then Peterson has remained involved with Democratic Party politics but spends most of his time concentrating on his other favorite profession—teach-

**Journal reporter**  
Peterson studied at the University of Missouri until 1946 when he became a general assignment reporter for the *Lincoln Journal*. He said journalists need to know more about the economy to report about it more accurately.

A professor encouraged Peterson to work on his master's degree after he received his bachelor's degree from Nebraska in 1947. Peterson majored in economics and European history.

After returning from a fellowship in Switzerland, Peterson took an assistantship in the economics department.

Peterson hadn't planned on becoming a professor.

"I didn't have the foggiest idea on how people became professors," he

Since joining the faculty in 1951, Peterson has been active in many areas.

He served as chairman of the UNL economics department from 1965 to 1975. He was vice president of the Faculty Senate in 1972 and 1973 and president the next year.

Peterson said he is always learning new ways of teaching. He likes to vary his methods to interest his students as well as himself, he said.

Peterson enjoys his work because economics deals with how different policies will affect human beings, he said.

Studying the analytical side helps economists understand why things happen the way they do and what can be done to prevent problems, he said.

## Man arrested for burglary

A 25-year-old man was arrested Wednesday night in connection with a burglary at the hotel in the Nebraska Center for Continuing Education, 33rd and Holdrege Streets, UNL Police said.

The man allegedly picked up some room keys and used one to enter a room, taking \$50 in cash, police said.

The man arrested and the victim were non-university persons who were apparently passing through town.

Two cases of vandalism to cars occurred within the last few days, totaling more than \$500 in damage and thefts, campus police said.

Police said a vandal took \$115 worth of stereo speakers from a car parked in the Area 2 lot at 17th and R streets.

The vandal caused more than \$300 worth of damage to the car by breaking the driver's window, rear window and damaging the car's rear deck, police said.

The front windshield was broken out of a car parked in the Area 5 lot near Burr Residence Hall at East Campus, police said. The windshield was valued at \$150, police said.

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They're pretty special friends. And they deserve a special "Thanks." So, tonight, let it be Löwenbräu.



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