

Fowler says Thone administration incompetent

By Roger Aden

Government by incompetency and a lack of leadership is how Sen. Steve Fowler of Lincoln describes the administration of Gov. Charles Thone.

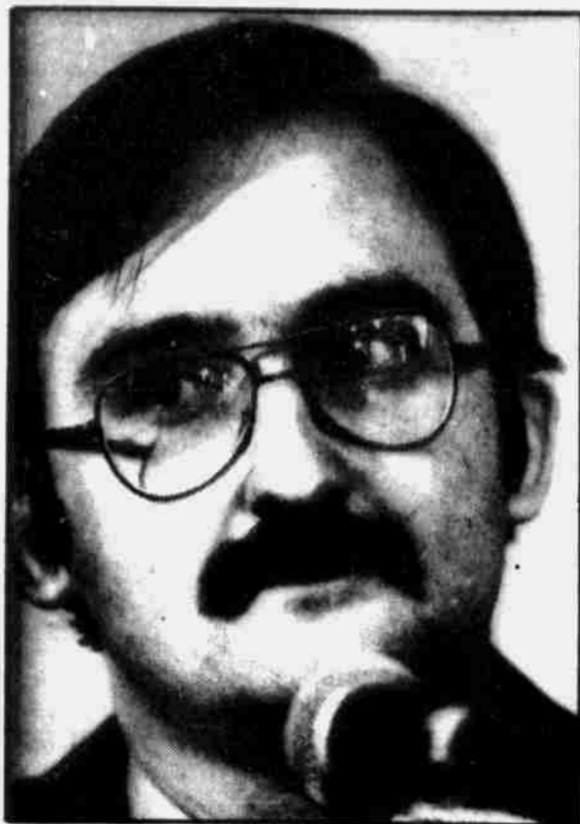
Fowler, speaking at the organizational meeting of the Young Democrats Tuesday said Thone will go to great lengths to avoid making an unpopular decision.

As an example, Fowler cited Thone's hint that a special session of the Nebraska Legislature may be called to cut the state budget, a move Fowler termed a political ploy.

Fowler said the possibility of cutting the budget arose when Thone lowered taxes in response to a surplus of revenue generated by a tax increase during Sen. J.J. Exon's term as governor.

"He may have lowered taxes too much," Fowler said. "And now he's left with the possibility of cutting the state budget or raising taxes.

"This all came about because the Thone administration had no long-range fiscal



Daily Nebraskan photo
State Sen. Steve Fowler of Lincoln

policy," Fowler said. "It was based on the naive belief that when Reagan became president the economy would turn around

and Reagan would pour millions of dollars into the state."

Fowler said Thone may ask the State Board of Equalization to raise some state taxes, possibly the state sales tax.

Giving equal time to the national government, Fowler said the United States needs more than a great communicator as its leader.

"People say he's (Reagan) a great communicator, but that's because he is a fair actor," Fowler said.

"Someone gives him a speech that he doesn't understand in any great depth, but he can give it (the speech) with great sincerity so the people watching on TV believe that it's the most sincere thing they have heard," Fowler said.

"There's more to the president than putting words in his mouth," he said.

Fowler said when people refer to Reagan's tax package as reverse-Robin Hood, taking from the poor and giving to the rich, they are exactly right. He mentioned tax credits as an example.

"Big business and corporations are raid-

ing the pocket of the average American," he said. "It's been said that in three to five years no big business will have to pay taxes because of this type of thing (tax credits)."

Fowler said Reagan's economic program is making the economy worse and putting a great economic hardship on the middle and lower classes.

Fowler told the group that as future campaign workers in the Democratic Party, they need to be aware of changes in campaign strategies. He said the Republican Party's use of computer technology for direct-mail purposes, is a practice the Democrats have not yet developed.

"It's phony and artificial, but the American public has been sucked into this good communication," he said.

Fowler told the sparse audience they need to learn politics well. He mentioned specifically campaign strategies, state and national issues, and getting to know key Democratic leaders.

He stressed the importance of actual campaign work, saying most candidates are looking for people to help with their campaigns.



Photo by Kent Morgan Olsen

American Werewolves in Lincoln? Goblins and ghouls were seen prowling around the capitol early Wednesday afternoon. Although Halloween is still a week and a half away, these spooks were out to advertise the Lincoln School of Commerce's Haunted House for the United Way, which will be held Oct. 23, 24 and Oct. 27 through 31. The prowlers are (from left), Laura Olsen, Larry Peterson, Ann Hardy and Martha Bader. All are freshmen at the school.

Grad asks ASUN to reach out

By Melinda Norris

UNL graduate student O.J. King remembers the protests of the '60s, when 4,000 students would gather on a cold, rainy day to march down 14th Street. However, he also realizes that sense of community no longer exists in the '80s.

With this in mind, King asked the ASUN Senate Wednesday to listen to students' problems and become an entity respected by the governor, the Legislature, the UNL chancellor and the NU president.

University student organizations are said to represent only a minority of the students on campus, King said.

King told the senate that instead of asking "Why aren't people coming to us?" they should ask, "How can we get them to think they are a member of the organization (ASUN)?"

King told the senate that today's university consists of a variety of people with different views of the university and their involvement within it.

"People exist on this campus that go to class and that's it," King said.

There are different groups on campus, such as Greeks,

veterans and non-traditional students, King said. Each student has a vision of his involvement in the university.

The senate needs to concentrate on how these students relate to the university in order to determine their views of ASUN, King said.

The senate should conduct interviews with different groups and develop the variety of perspectives, King said. Then the student association could improve its communication or restructure itself so more students could relate to it.

"If the students feel they are a part of the student association, they will respond to various projects," he said.

"Student governments are not supported by the students," King said. "The student government must provide some type of service before people can support them."

The United States Student Association, the student lobbying body in Washington, represents university student governments, King said. Without student support of those governments, USSA is not respected by representatives in Washington, he said.

King said it is "tragic" that students have to play politics with education, but "for the sake of their degree and future degrees, they have to start."

Water information committee formed

By Joe Kreizinger

Few Nebraskans appreciate the tremendous impact water has on the economic stature of this state, said Jack Hart, aide to Governor Charles Thone.

Hart said an ad-hoc committee has been formed recently to generate public information about water resources.

He said the group is composed of several state agencies, including the Natural Resources Commission, the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Environmental Control. Also involved in the project is the U.S. Soil Conservation Service.

"We are coming to an era of terrific competition for water," Hart said. "Nebraskans must depend on water management for their economic well-being."

The competition for water will exist primarily between Nebraska farmers, who rely heavily on water for irrigation, and mineral researchers of the Rocky Mountain region, whose research work requires vast supplies of water and electricity.

Hart said Nebraska is currently the most intensively irrigated state in the nation. He said the value of water is not realized by the majority of Nebraskans.

The committee will rely on all modes of public communication to spread its ideas, Hart said. This will include the news media, public speakers, informative brochures and talk shows on public television and radio.

Hart said few problems have risen for the project so far. He said one difficulty which could arise concerns relaying unbiased information.

"Different people always have different views on water," Hart said. "We will have to develop accurate, unbiased information to pass on to the public. From our information, people can develop their own conclusions."

Hart said a second committee of state officials works to promote water conservation in the state. This committee appeals to Nebraska irrigation farmers to conserve water.

"It is important that we impress on farmers the necessity to improve water conditions," Hart said. "Many farmers have been taking part in voluntary programs in the past few years in efforts to conserve our water supply."

Hart said this second committee issues irrigation schedules farmers are asked to follow. These schedules ask farmers to conserve water by shutting down their wells on certain days. Voluntary response to this program has thus far been good, he said.

inside thursday

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