

daily nebraskan

Thone orders legislators back to balance budget

By Melinda Norris

Charles Thone reiterated his pledge not to increase the Nebraska income or sales tax, and recommended a reduction in appropriations as he called for a special session of the Nebraska Legislature to adjust the 1981-82 fiscal year budget by \$24.5 million.

The Legislature will convene for the second time this year Friday at 10 a.m., Thone said, to come up with a plan to battle projected deficit spending by June 1982.

"The state revenue is not going to bring in as much money as was forecasted last spring," Thone said.

At the end of September, the taxes collected totaled \$7.7 million less than forecasted, Thone said. The first three weeks in October has shown a tax collection 10 percent less than anticipated for the month, he said.

Trend is alarming

The trend is "alarming," Thone said.

If the Legislature does not act, income will fall below appropriations in June 1982, Thone said.

The Legislature has two choices, Thone

said, to either cut spending or raise taxes.

Thone said he is "totally and emphatically" against any increase in taxes and a large majority of Nebraskans and state senators share his views.

Thone said he will submit to the Legislature a bill reducing and deferring appropriations made last spring, reducing expenditures by \$25,360,579.

In this bill, Thone proposes to reduce the capital construction budget by \$5.5 million, deferring \$1.4 million allotted to the NU Veterinary School and cancelling a pedestrian corridor at the NU Medical Center at a cost of \$200,000.

The plan for the veterinary school would be pushed back one fiscal year, under Thone's plan, said Steve Ferris, deputy budget administrator.

"The plan has not been repealed," Ferris said. "This deferral doesn't affect the project."

In addition to the reduction in capital construction, Thone asks for cuts in the \$4 million the cash fund and \$15.9 million in general fund appropriations, state aid and savings.

When cutting the state budget, State Budget Officer Don Leuenberger said the uncertainty of funds from the federal

government was considered.

Federal cuts exempt

Because of the "anticipated but not yet



Photo by Mark Billingsley
Gov. Charles Thone

known federal budget reductions," some programs that could be affected by the federal cuts were exempt from any further reduction by the state, Leuenberger said. These programs include special education, public assistance and mental retardation.

Leuenberger said funding for the Nebraska Department of Corrections and the special education program were not cut because their expenditures are unknown and are already threatened by deficit spending.

Thone said reasons for the decline in state revenue are the reduction of earnings and a cut in the federal income tax.

"Nebraska is not earning as much money as anticipated in the forecast last spring," Thone said. Agricultural income is down, construction has slowed and unemployment is growing, Thone said.

Because Nebraska receives a percentage of the federal income tax, the recent cuts by the federal government has reduced Nebraska's share by \$10 million.

The 5 percent reduction in federal income taxes, effective Oct. 1, caused a "light reduction," Thone said.

The state is expecting a 10 percent cut next fiscal year in federal funds, Thone said.

University officials to discuss streets with mayor

By Patty Pryor

Three university officials opposed to the construction of 16th and 17th streets as an alternative to the Northeast Radial will meet Mayor Helen Boosalis Nov. 6.

NU Regent Edward Schwartzkopf, UNL Chancellor Martin Massengale and UNL Business Manager Ray Coffey — university spokesmen appointed by Massengale — wrote a letter to the mayor several weeks ago expressing their concern about proposals involving the two streets, Schwartzkopf said.

"We indicated that we are opposed to those (16th and 17th streets) becoming a viable alternative," he said.

"We're just reaffirming the same

position adopted by the NU Board of Regents in 1967," he added.

"At that time, the city encouraged us to develop loops throughout the campus, and the theory was to pull as much traffic off of 16th Street as possible," he said.

The improvement to the campus that occurred after 14th Street was closed to through traffic in 1969 shows the value of that theory, Schwartzkopf said.

Coffey said any alternative must attempt to remove traffic from campus.

He cited figures that show 15,000 to 16,000 cars a day travel between R and Vine streets on 16th and 17th streets.

"It would be absolutely disastrous to campus to bring that much more traffic to

those streets, especially with the number of students trying to get to classes," Coffey said. "We need to bypass the most populated areas of campus."

Various proposals for protecting pedestrian traffic are not feasible, he said.

"It's obvious to me that overpasses and tunnels are expenses that would just create a visual monstrosity and they would not be enough protection."

A major throughfare on either 16th or 17th street would split the campus, Coffey said.

"It seems totally inconsistent to me that they (the City Planning Commission) are saying it's fine to divide the university, but not the neighborhoods involved in past radial proposals," he said.

City Planning Director Doug Brogden and other city officials have suggested the city establish a corridor between 16th and 19th streets as an alternative to the radial now in the Comprehensive Plan but defeated by voters in a referendum last spring.

A university plan, originally suggested by Coffey, proposes using 19th Street and then curving the road west to 17th Street north of Vine to eventually connect it with a proposed Holdrege Street bypass.

"At the time, no one was really looking at alternatives (to the radial plan defeated by voters last April)," Coffey said. "and I just threw this one out to show that there can be alternatives."

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Self-help groups discount idea of 'hopeless case'

By Joe Kreizinger

One of the most innovative trends in mental health today is the constant expansion of self-help groups.

More than a dozen self-help groups and more than 50 support groups now serve the Lincoln area. These organizations provide individuals a common meeting place to gather and discuss similar problems.

Instrumental in the growth of this mental health sector is the Self-Help Information Service, a non-profit organization directed by volunteer worker Barbara Fox. Fox's service has provided information on self-help groups in the area, including meeting times and places since 1963. Fox said she has a hopeful view of mental illness.

The Daily Nebraskan examines mental health and psychological services in Nebraska in a series of stories on Pages 8 and 9.

"I don't believe that there is any such thing as a hopeless case," Fox said. "People just need to look honestly at their problems. A support group helps them to do this."

Among the more widely utilized self-help services in Lincoln are: Alcoholics Anonymous, Overeaters Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, Parents Anonymous and Recovery, Inc. All of these groups are self-supporting, except for Parents Anonymous, which accepts outside contributions.

According to Fox, these self-help groups use a "rap session" format, allowing persons to speak of their pressures and traumas while remaining anonymous if they desire.

Alcoholics Anonymous was among the first of the self-help groups to acquire prominent stature in the mental health picture. AA requires no dues or fees, only a desire to quit drinking. Fox said AA bases its work on a spiritual "Twelve Step" principle, which has been similarly adopted by other "anonymous" groups for overeaters and gamblers.

The Alcoholics Anonymous Guidebook states that following the "Twelve Steps" is essential to the individual's progress in the group. The first of these steps says: "We admitted we were powerless over alcohol — that our lives have become unmanageable." Fox said this admission of the problem is vital in beginning to search for a resolution to the problem.

"There is lots of hope," Fox said. "People just need to admit their mistakes. Then the power of the group can be of help."

Some people can become addicted to practically anything and everything, Fox said. She said no addiction is better or worse than any other addiction.

"An addiction is an addiction," Fox said. "Look at how much time and money some of today's youth put into electronic machines. This is an addiction just as alcoholism is."

This type of addiction, gambling, is becoming more widespread today than ever before, Fox said. Lincoln sector of Gamblers Anonymous is still in its initial stage of development, she said, adding that she expects the group to grow consistently in the near future.

"Gamblers Anonymous is today where AA was 40 years ago," she said. "People are starting to realize its presence."

According to Fox, Recovery, Inc., a self-help group emphasizing mental health through well-training is "an extremely helpful group for students."

Recovery, Inc. has helped thousands of people who, with no help, might have been considered insane, Fox said. Recovery deals with pressures already known to an individual which need to be explored and discussed, she said. Group therapy provides an exceptional outlet, she said.

Another relatively new self-help group, Emotions Anonymous, deals with seeking out inner pressures not evident to the individual.

The Abuse Victims Support Group is another of

today's emerging groups intent on supplying a foundation for a sound mental state. Fox organized this Lincoln group two years ago. She said the group is involved in combating abuse at all levels and ages, whether physical, emotional, or sexual.

Fox said the "rap session" format is especially useful in this area of group therapy.

"We have accomplished a lot in the group sessions," Fox said. "Some people feel disloyal talking about abuse, but when they are surrounded with people with the same problems, they are not afraid to make themselves known."

Above all, Fox contends, people should not be afraid to visit the self-help group of their choice.

"People need to deal with their problems or the results can be disastrous," she said. "When they get into these groups they find they can be honest with each other and with themselves."

Fox said the new edition of the Self-Help Information Service booklet will be available next week, at no cost, at the University Health Center. The booklet lists meeting times and places for all current self-help groups in Lincoln.

inside wednesday

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