

opinion/editorial

Thone plan may harm state

If Gov. Charles Thone gets his way, Nebraskans will witness no raise in state sales and income tax rates for the rest of this year.

Ordinarily, that would present no problem, because tax rates for the year were set much earlier.

But the state now stares at a \$22 million to \$24 million deficit in appropriations that is expected to increase to \$30 million by July. The deficit is blamed on a recessionary economy that has thrown off projections of the amount of taxes that would be collected.

Thone has called a special session of the Nebraska Legislature, which convenes today, to introduce his proposal to cut \$25.4 million from this year's state appropriations rather than raise taxes.

That would mean a savings of \$8.7 million through a 3 percent across the board cut for state agencies, \$5.6 million in deferred construction projects, \$5 million in program cuts greater than 3 percent and other decreases.

Nebraskans may be ecstatic or apathetic that Thone is pushing to keep taxes stable. Government has grown so much in Nebraska that it has become a major part of Lincoln's economy, making the trend in tax rates anything but downward.

Federal, and more recently, state governments have taken on roles as protectors of social welfare. They promote our future by enhancing such concerns as education, Social Security and ecology, to name a few.

But the mentality of the Reagan administration has been to wipe out those concerns by

lowering federal income taxes and lopping federal programs.

The Reagan administration has created a dangerous illusion that we can go back to pre-Great Depression times and function without the auspices of big government.

Times have changed. For more than a decade, the nation has suffered through high inflation and high unemployment. The market forces that produced this engima cannot be expected to reverse it.

The same mentality of reducing government at the federal level may be filtering to the state level in Nebraska.

A major part of the state's deficit — \$10 million — is directly related to cuts in federal income taxes, because state income taxes, collected at a rate of 15 percent of the federal rate, are automatically being reduced with the federal cuts.

Wasteful government should not be equated with big government. Thone is correct in his bid to lower funding for programs that may not use their appropriations this year, such as the grasshopper fund and the governor's emergency fund.

However, the Legislature must consider, in its seven-day minimum task, whether lowering state funds and possibly impeding welfare, is in our interest.

Budget cuts, in the long run, may cost taxpayers more in terms of crippled, lost or never-started programs than would a simple tax rate increase.

Alice Hrnicek

State control can maintain quality of non-public schools

John DeCamp should call out "Bingo" on this one. He finally hit the mark.

DeCamp, the state senator from Neligh, pointed out that it's time the stage get involved in the growing battle of public vs. private education. He's absolutely right.

For months now — ever since the Nebraska Supreme Court ordered the doors of Louisville's Faith Christian School closed — the private school sector has had its way about the rights of their schools and teachers. Good for them. But now, it's the state's turn.

patti gallagher

The state can take that turn in Legislative Resolution 108. The resolution calls for a study of how much state regulation and supervision is needed in private schools. Most importantly, the resolution will try to answer this: Should our private school teachers and curriculum be state-accredited?

LR108 was discussed Wednesday at the Capitol where DeCamp made his remarks. While DeCamp argued that the state should start talking about and providing solutions for the public-private school conflict, a UNL education professor did just that.

Don McCurdy, professor of curriculum and instruction said the state accreditation is vital, according to the *Lincoln Journal*. He was quoted as saying that teachers should be certified to protect students from incompetent instructors and inadequate schools.

McCurdy's solution to the problem from the *Journal*: "Schools and teachers cannot be allowed to function without guidance from the state."

The professor offers the most clear, concise and straightforward solution I've heard to date. He doesn't get tangled up in whether education of children is parent's God-given right.

He doesn't question whether Christian schools are better than non-Christian ones. In fact, McCurdy totally discounts that the issue has anything to do with religion.

McCurdy is partially wrong. Private schools, by and large, have a great deal to do with religion. That is why they are private — so they can implant religious beliefs and values in their students.

But McCurdy is right that being private is no excuse for being bad, that being private is no reason for hiring unlicensed teachers or teaching unapproved curriculae.

From personal experience — I attended 12 years of private school — good teachers are about the only thing private schools can brag about. They have few of the facilities, the supplies and the programs supplied to public schools. They get none of the state's money.

But they do have good teachers dedicated to providing good education. In fact, they are probably more dedicated than public school teachers because they work for such low wages and with such dilapidated supplies.

To give private schools free reign by removing any state control, is to perhaps remove their only redeeming features.

Without state law, the private schools currently hiring teachers without certification will continue to do so. The result is discriminatory education: students attending private schools just aren't getting the same caliber of education as are public school students.

Yes, allow, even encourage private education to continue. But as McCurdy said, be sure the state stands firm in requiring that this nation's children are adequately educated.

Broker's sexual interest rate wanes

In a desperate attempt to shore up a sagging economy, the president's economic advisers are now considering supplying the nation's stockbrokers with satin sheets, powdered rhinoceros horn and free subscriptions to "Lust," the magazine of meaningful interviews.

What stimulated this imaginative proposal was the recent discovery by psychologists of a direct correlation between sex and the Dow Jones industrial average.

arthur hoppe

"When the market goes down," explained one, "members of the financial community feel tense, dispirited and inadequate — scarcely the mood in which sexual interest might flourish."

For proof of this theory, one need look no further than to Felicia Frisbee and her husband, Fred, once an ebullient and ambitious young broker.

"When Mr. Reagan was elected," said Felicia, dabbing at her mascara with a Kleenex, "our marriage seemed made in heaven. Fred would come home every evening with candy or flowers, take me in his arms and murmur sweet nothings in my ear like: 'I find you and the high-tech glamour issues irresistible, dearest.'"

"Oh, I can still remember the night the Dow Jones

industrials hit 1000! Fred hadn't been that bullish since our honeymoon. In fact, for the entire following week, every time E.F. Hutton talked, I got a headache."

Then the market plummeted 150 points. The spark, needless to say, went out of Fred and Felicia's marriage.

"I did everything I could," sobbed Felicia. "I would greet him at the door in my black lace baby-dolls with a cold martini in my hand. He'd take the martini, look at me as though I were ten shares of Pan-Am and turn on 'Laverne and Shirley.'"

"During our candlelit dinners, I'd pour him a glass of wine, put on a Montovani record and whisper encouraging little tidbits in his ear, such as, 'Louis Rukeyser says many attractive assets are now within reach.'"

"But he'd merely mutter, 'Down! Down! Down! Everything's going down!' I mean he's been a real bear."

Whether Fred and Felicia's marriage can survive is one question. Whether the economy can survive is another. For if a sinking stock market can depress sexual interest, the converse is equally true.

Each morning across the land, stockbrokers get out of bed feeling tense, dispirited and inadequate. When they arrive at the office in this mood, do they optimistically buy? No, they pessimistically sell. And down the market plunges further. It's a vicious cycle.

Now we see the ingenuity behind the plan proposed by the president's economic advisers. It is not the high interest rate in lending that is causing our woes; it is the low interest rate in sex.

One adviser frankly admitted that his major concern in this hour of national economic crisis was whether powdered rhinoceros horn would work.

"But look at it this way," he said. "You got anything better?"

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Editorial published in the Daily Nebraskan without a byline are written by Tom Prentiss, editor for the fall 1981 semester. The name of any other staff member who may write the lead editorial will be printed at the end of the article.

Editorials printed in the Daily Nebraskan represent the policy of the fall, 1981 Daily Nebraskan, but do not necessarily reflect the views of the University of Nebraska, its employees or the NU Board of Regents.

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The Daily Nebraskan encourages brief letters to the editor from all readers and interested others.

Letters will be selected for publication on the basis of clarity, originality, timeliness and space available in the newspaper.

Letters sent to the newspaper for publication become the property of the Daily Nebraskan and cannot be returned.

The Daily Nebraskan reserves the right to edit and condense all letters submitted.

Readers are also welcome to submit material as guest opinions, subject to the editor's decision to print or not to print the material, either as a letter or as a guest opinion.

Anonymous submissions will not be considered for publication, and requests to withhold names will be granted only in exceptional circumstances.

Submit all material to the Daily Nebraskan, Room 34, Nebraska Union, 1400 R St., Lincoln, Neb. 68588.

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