

daily nebraskan



Photo by Mark Billingsley

Sen. Bernice Labedz of Omaha confers with Sen. Steve Fowler of Lincoln during a hull in the Legislature's special session.

Special session Legislature passes bills to final reading

By D.L. Horton

The special session of the Nebraska Legislature Thursday passed on to final reading of the two bills requested by Gov. Charles Thone.

LB8 is the appropriations bill to decrease state spending and transfer cash funds to eliminate the state's \$25 million deficit.

LB7 concerns changing the state's Aid to Dependent Children program to conform with new federal guidelines.

Sen. Chris Beutler of Lincoln moved to adjourn the afternoon session. The Legislature can not vote on the bills immediately because legislative rules demand a

layover period.

The earliest the Legislature can vote on the bills is Saturday.

Sen. William Nichol of Scottsbluff also asked an Attorney General's opinion on the governor's power to veto to avoid any problems during the final reading of the 155-page LB8.

The Legislature will recess as soon as a vote is taken.

A resolution by Sen. Steve Wiitala, of Omaha, said the responsibility for balancing the budget remains with the State Board of Equalization.

"The buck stops at the door of the board of equalization," Wiitala said.

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Professors discuss Reagan policies for Western Europe

By Roger Aden

Anti-nuclear weapon sentiment is growing in Western Europe and, contrary to Reagan administration views, involves more than just the left wing, according to three UNL political science professors who specialize in international affairs.

Raphael Zariski, David Rapkin and David Forysthe all agree that the broad-based movement is partially a result of policies followed by the Reagan administration, particularly the proposed deployment of American Pershing II and cruise missiles in Western Europe beginning in 1983.

"Part of the concern arises from the shift in nuclear strategy from the deterrent MAD (Mutual Assured Destruction) theory to the talk of fighting and winning a limited nuclear war," Rapkin said.

"This concern is stemming from their (Europeans) perception that the European theater is a designated battleground for a superpower confrontation. It's a no-gain situation for them," he said.

In addition, Zariski said Europeans no longer see the Soviet Union as a threat, increasing their fear that the buildup of American nuclear weapons is a destabilizing factor in East-West relations.

"Many Europeans don't remember World War II and the Soviet Union is seen, at best, as a remote threat," Zariski said.

Communist harmless

"Furthermore, the local Communists are harmless enough," Zariski said. "I've studied the Italian Communists and they certainly don't frighten me."

Adding to the European view of a remote Soviet threat is the fact that the USSR has no reason to invade Western Europe, according to Rapkin.

"What would the Soviets do with it once they've got it?" he asked. "They're already having enough trouble exercising control over their Eastern European empire without spreading themselves thin in Western Europe."

Because of the current political climate, Forysthe and his two colleagues said U.S.

policy in Western Europe is inappropriate.

"The more they make nuclear war look limited, the more they increase the likelihood of nuclear war," Forysthe said. "This is a dangerous policy to follow because a so-called limited nuclear war would cause catastrophic damage immediately and in the long-run radiation would kill many more."

"This policy is destabilizing. It makes the Soviets more nervous without really helping ourselves," Forysthe continued. "The Reagan administration could actually end up making the U.S. weaker if we lose the support of our allies."

All three instructors said strengthening conventional forces in Europe might be a

better alternative to relying on tactical nuclear weapons to protect NATO countries.

Draft only way

However, Zariski and Forysthe said a draft is probably the only way to increase the number of troops to a level comparable to that of Warsaw Pact conventional forces.

Rapkin said the number of American troops that would need to be committed would depend on how much of the defense burden Europeans would shoulder.

In addition, Forysthe and Rapkin stressed the need for arms control and limitation talks to alleviate some of the pressure in Europe. Forysthe said the talks are unlikely to occur.

"My only hope is that after a certain amount of wasteful spending, the Reagan administration will satisfy the public and enter into arms control talks where it can bargain from a position of strength, which is its goal," Forysthe said. "But I'm pessimistic about Reagan's defense policies."

If the Reagan administration does not change its policies in Western Europe, the outcome could be tragic, according to Rapkin.

"By his (Reagan's) insensitivity to European concerns and insistence on a hard-line, confrontationist approach to the Soviets, Reagan may well be undermining the government of our allies. But that remains to be seen," Rapkin said.

Class action case against jail may get May trial

By Elizabeth Burden

A class action case filed concerning the former County-City jail was heard in pre-trial action Tuesday. According to Vincent Powers, attorney for the plaintiffs, the trial date has been tentatively set for the May court term.

Powers said that at the hearing a discovery period deadline was set for March. During this period the plaintiffs and defendants have an opportunity to file depositions, motions and to conduct investigations in order to gather evidence for trial.

Mike Thieu, attorney representing the

county defendants, declined to comment on the hearing.

"Due to ethical considerations, we are in a position where we should not comment beyond what is included in the pleadings," Thieu said. "Rather than risk prejudicing the case, I would rather wait until the order (from the court) is handed down."

City attorney representatives were not available for comment.

The suit, filed Aug. 12 by inmates Dennis Windes and Christy Stone, is against the city of Lincoln, Lancaster County and their officials. It seeks to correct inadequate housing conditions at the jail.

Located in the basement of the County-City Building at 555 S. 10th, the jail is now under county control, a result of an inter-local agreement reached between the city and the county Aug. 17.

Plaintiff Christy Stone, who, as stated in an Oct. 6 Daily Nebraskan article, had apparently disappeared, returned to Lincoln on Oct. 29 after what she stated as "taking a little trip." She declined to state her reasons for the trip.

Powers said his client was never missing. "We could get ahold of her when we needed to," he said.

Stone said she did not know the exact status of the suit, or whether she is still considered a plaintiff in the case. Powers

had wondered whether Stone's status as a plaintiff would change because she is no longer an inmate.

Powers said that a class certification motion had been filed in this case, because Stone is no longer an inmate, and Windes may be released soon. In a class action suit, the plaintiff 'class' must be justified according to legal criteria, he said.

"We don't see it (their status) as a problem, but we'll have to wait and see what the judge says," Powers said. He said he expects a ruling on the class certification motion within the next month or two, and he added that he's optimistic that the ruling will be favorable.

"Even if it's not, it will not stop the suit," Powers said.



Photo by Jerry McBride

"Road impassable when wet," the sign at 42nd Street between Vine and O streets says, but motorists still venture onto the rain-softened dirt road.

inside friday

Time Out For Bush: Husker fans going to see Vice President George Bush at Pershing Auditorium Saturday won't have to miss the game Page 8

Cowpoke Corral: The Husker football team travels to Stillwater, Okla., for Saturday's televised game against Oklahoma State Page 10

How Good is Thorogood?: Casey McCabe and Pat Higgins went to the George Thorogood concert in Omaha to formulate an answer Page 12