

opinion/editorial

Thone's politically-motivated moves ignore issues

When Sen. Don Dworak of Columbus announced Wednesday his intention not to run for governor, he called Gov. Charles Thone "indecisive, weak and politically motivated." Dworak may have spoken too soon, however.

According to the Associated Press, Thone, on Wednesday, performed a minor miracle by helping to get television coverage of Saturday's Oklahoma State-Nebraska gridiron match-up beamed to western Nebraska.

Apparently, the station in Scottsbluff gets its ABC Television "feed" from Denver, which was slated to show the New Mexico-Utah game. A flood of 300 calls to the local ABC affiliate, to Denver, to the National Collegiate Athletic Association offices in Shawnee Mission, Kan., and to ABC Television in New York did the trick, and special arrangements were made to allow the game to be seen in western Nebraska.

Apparently one of those calls was from Charles Thone, Regent Robert Simmons of Scottsbluff told the Associated Press.

Thone has built his political life on public appearances and actions which keep his public image glowing but don't really touch on any major crises facing Nebraska.

Although it is good that Husker fans all over the state will be able to view the game, we wonder if the governor doesn't have better things to do with his time than become a programmer for the ABC Network.

With the Legislature muddling through attempts to trim \$25 million from the state budget — a move which will strangle already financially-strapped state institutions such as the university, Thone once again exhibits one of his typical politically-motivated moves.

Crowning county queens, speaking before local lodges and getting TV coverage to out-state Nebraska may be good public relations, but it really doesn't do any thing except mask the fact that Thone's do-nothing administration has allowed the state to become mired in the budget-crunch issue.

Accusations continue to fly that Thone and his advisers "doctored" reports issued to last summer's State Board of Equalization which at that time did not raise tax rates, forcing the special session.

Thone would much rather see the Legislature take the political heat when state services run dry, than assume the responsibility of maintaining the 1980 tax rate by allowing

a 1 percentage point state income tax increase to cover the funds lost by the percentage drop in the federal income tax rate.

leadership is to maintain a positive public relations image, then perhaps it's time for a new governor who will assume full responsibility for the state.

If Charles Thone's idea of forceful

Kim Hachiya



Vision of bliss blurred by unsupervised children

It's a vision I have often these days. I'm a mommy and he's a daddy and we just had a little boy. How blessed. How blessed. What a lovely family.

But wait. Now baby's home, and mommy and daddy go back to work and baby is all alone. How sad. How sorrowful. What a wicked mommy.

patti gallagher

Yes, of course, mommy is to blame. After all, she had the baby and now she's going off and leaving the dear child either alone or with a stranger. Bad, bad mommy.

I guess I'm doomed to be the bad mommy of my vision. You see, I plan to join that force of working mothers — more than 17 million strong in early 1980 — sometime in the next decade.

Hopefully apparent by my presence on this university campus, I want a job — not just any job, but a career-job, where I go to work when it's morning and return when it's evening and do something important in-between. And I want a family, with the house and the yard and the happy kids and the husband — who goes to work when it's morn-

ing and returns when it's evening and does something important in-between.

The problem: I'm scared to death that I can't have them both. Other women should be too.

The unsupervised children of America's working mothers — both the single ones and those with husbands — are quickly becoming our newest social problem.

In March of last year, 30.7 million children under 18 — 53 percent of that age group — had working mothers. Specifically, 9.8 million children were under 6 years old; the remaining were aged 6 to 17.

The significance: 30.7 million children have no parental supervision for a large portion of the day.

What's so awful about that? Nothing, except that unsupervised children are now involved in delinquent acts, perform at lower levels in schools, are more prone to in-home accidents and grow up feeling rejected by their parents. At least that is the opinion of a Penn State professor in a recent article in *Education Digest*.

But at the same time, that professor says children with working parents — the "latchkey" children who are old enough to fend for themselves after school hours — are probably more independent, learn "survival" skills at earlier ages and are more responsible. But, he asks, is that responsibility premature? A *Newsweek* article (Feb. 16, 1981) on "latchkey kids" elaborates:

"These children are the ones most likely to have reading and learning difficulties. They are the one most likely to become truants and delinquents. They are the ones most likely to be untrained and jobless, to be engaged in violent crime. And yet we are scarcely paying attention to the problem.

"It's so much easier to talk about our social problems in terms of young adults who are unskilled and out of work, or into drugs or crime, and so on. But we have not taken note of the fact that the problems begin much earlier — with children born to mothers who are themselves children."

Norton is aware that the increase in out-of-wedlock births has occurred among whites as well as blacks. But the statistics are far more serious among blacks. Between 1970 and 1979, for instance, out-of-wedlock births among whites increased from 5.7 percent to 9.4 percent. For blacks, the increase was from 38 percent to 55 percent, according to the Census Bureau, and appears to be still climbing.

"The situation would not be nearly as devastating if the extended family had survived the ghetto," says Norton. "It didn't. The sheltered situation that used to exist in Black America, even for children of unmarried parents, doesn't exist in the big cities.

"As a result, we have been dealing with symptoms, rather than the basic problems.

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Unwed mothers trouble for blacks

It is, says Eleanor Holmes Norton, "the single most important problem confronting the black community today."

Norton gained prominence as an executive aide to the mayor of New York before becoming chair of the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission under President Jimmy Carter. But the problem she is speaking of is not the urban crisis, or joblessness, or even racism. It is, in the words of the old rock song, "babies making babies."

william raspberry

More than half of all black children born in America today are born out of wedlock, most of them to teen-age mothers. It is, says Holmes, not merely a problem for the young mothers and their families. It is "disastrous" for the entire black community. "Ordinarily, young people are expected to provide the group with a fresh start. But what kind of fresh start can there be for us when half the next generation will consist of children who were raised by children? These youngsters, who should be our hope for the future, are virtually guaranteed to grow up with problems of the most severe kind. The implications are disastrous for all of us.

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