

daily nebraskan

No voice on council makes car tax unfair, resident says

By Roger Aden

Several area residents complained at a City Council public hearing Monday that imposing a vehicle or wheel tax on everyone who works in the city is "taxation without representation."

Currently, an \$8 tax used to upgrade city streets and highways is assessed on vehicles belonging to people who live in Lincoln. Non-residents are exempt from paying the tax.

The proposed change would increase the tax to \$12 in 1982 and increase it to \$18 in 1984. In addition, people who have paid the tax will have a sticker attached to their vehicles, showing that they have paid. The change would include non-residents who drive to work in Lincoln.

Council member Mike Steinman, a UNL political science professor, offered an amendment that would maintain the status quo in terms of who is assessed. His amendment would exempt students from the tax, according to Lincoln City Attorney Bill Austin.

Bill Terry, 6104 N.W. 7th St., told the council that people who live outside Lincoln, but work in the city, will be paying taxes yet have no say in city government because they are not represented on the council.

"Several people have said this is taxation without representation, and you're going to hear it again from me because that's exactly what it is," Terry said.

"If you want to give me a seat on this council, I'll be glad to take a look at this in a different light," he added.

Nette Nelson, chair of ASUN's Government Liaison Committee, spoke on behalf

of UNL students. She said the council is considering the tax for two reasons — to increase revenues and make the tax equitable — and both of the reasons have drawbacks.

Nelson said the tax increase and distribution of stickers will be difficult to enforce, while the cost of producing stickers will cut down on the projected increase in revenue.

According to Nelson, proponents of the change say the tax will be more equitable since students will be contributing more to the city's economy.

However, Nelson said students already bring to the Lincoln area more than \$100 million through property taxes, deposits in financial institutions, income from visitors and direct student spending.

In addition, Nelson said the proposed tax is inequitable because it will effect only students driving to their jobs, without taking into consideration the number of hours the student is working or how far they have to drive to get to work.

"Students will be penalized for holding a job," she said.

In other testimony:

—Jerry Corey, 114th and Adams, said the council is inviting trouble by trying to change the tax.

"I know a lot of people in Lincoln that don't like this tax and if you try to assess it, you'll be stirring up a hornets nest," he said.

—John DuPont, 6209 Cullen Drive, said the benefits of a good street system outweigh the costs of paying more taxes.

The council deferred action on the proposal until its next meeting, Monday, Nov. 16 at 1:30 p.m.

Food stamp program cuts concern Nebraska group

By Mary Louise Knapp

New food stamp regulations will adversely affect thousands of Americans participating in the program, said Jogues Epple, state coordinator for Nebraskans United for Food (NUFF).

Epple said that a cap on federal spending will force 10 percent to 20 percent of the nation's 23 million food stamp recipients out of the program by as early as Christmas.

Since the food stamp program is partially administered by the states, many states are having to come up with ways to cut the number of food stamp recipients in order to adjust to cutbacks in federal funds for the program, said reports published by NUFF and the Advocate Welfare Answering Service. AWAS is published monthly by the Advocate Welfare Answering Service, a non-profit organization.

The number of Nebraskans using food stamps has increased since 1979 from 34 percent of those eligible to 47 percent. An estimated 160,000 Nebraskans are eligible for food stamps, but only 73,363 are participating in the program, Epple said in a report published by NUFF in October.

In spite of Nebraska's agriculturally based economy, people have died of hunger in this state, Epple said.

Epple said in the report that the government's cuts in the program not only will hurt poor people, but will cause the economy to suffer as well.

"The food stamp program is vital not only for the poor, but for farmers and food processors," he said.

"For every dollar spent by hungry people, \$7 comes into the agricultural economy," he said.

Epple said the Nebraska economy has a market from the food stamp program of between \$42.5 million and \$54.7 million. Governmental cuts in the program caused Nebraska farmers to lose about \$79.13 million since 1979, Epple said.

Women and children will be hurt most severely by governmental cutbacks, he said.

"Fifty-one percent of food stamp recipients are children," he said.

The Women, Children and Infant Supplemental Food Program, a special division of the food stamp program, faces cutbacks to 1980 levels, he said.

School lunch and breakfast programs, which are especially beneficial to single parents, also may be cut, Epple said.

Churches and private charities cannot feed those who will be eliminated from the food stamp program, Epple said in his report. For private charities to do the job the money spent would be at least \$444 more per person annually for the same level of nutrition supplied by the food stamp program.

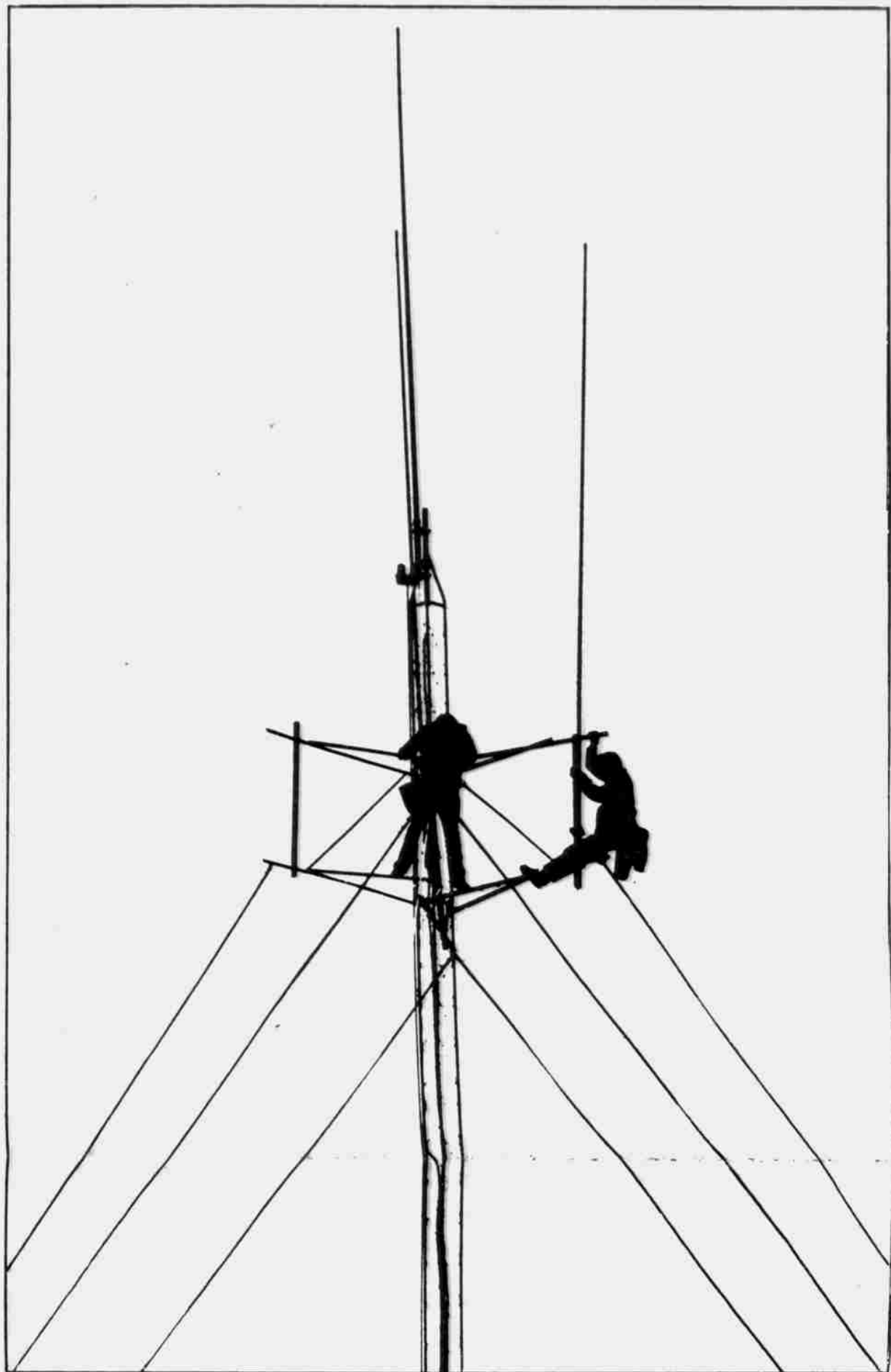
Epple said the major problem with hunger in the world is not lack of food, but inefficient food distribution.

"The thing that is ridiculous is that there is enough food," he said. "We have enough food now to feed the entire population of the world."

Enough food is wasted in the United States alone to feed 49 million people — twice as many as the food stamp program feeds now, he said.

Epple predicted a dangerous social climate in the next few months if federal aid to the poor continues to be cut.

"I foresee the Polish scenario (in the United States)," he said.



Daily Nebraskan photo

Workmen hang high above Nebraska Hall as they remove an antenna which was thought to have caused interference problems with police and paging frequencies. The antenna was removed Monday and, according to Dan Petersen, a UNL radio maintenance technician, the problem still exists.

Health center will be tested for accreditation next week

By Susan MacDonald

The University Health Center will be reviewed Nov. 16 and 17 for accreditation, according to Steve Blom, health center administrator.

The reviewing group is the Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care Inc., of Chicago.

"This is a primary accreditation association for ambulatory care facilities," Blom said. "They do, as a main function, university health centers all over the nation."

The AAAHC performs an on-site survey, conducted by full-time, practicing administrators and physicians from an organization similar to the one being reviewed.

The AAAHC publishes standards the facility must meet in order to attain accreditation, Blom said. The standards encompass every area of the health center.

"We don't have to be perfect, but we have to meet most of the standards," Blom said.

He said he foresees only one complaint the review team may have about the health center and that is the lack of space.

Blom said the health center was built in 1957 for a smaller student population and overcrowding has resulted.

"But it's not enough of a problem to not receive accreditation for," he said.

There are many university health centers across the country that aren't accredited, Blom said. He added that more student health centers and clinics are be-

ginning to use accreditation as a necessary way to maintain quality of service.

"It proves you're good," Blom said. The health center was one of 10 nationwide to receive accreditation three years ago, Blom said. It was the first time the center had been reviewed for accreditation purposes.

"The staff thinks accreditation is very necessary, because student fees are mandatory," Blom said. "It behooves the health center to maintain quality. Accreditation is a way to ensure an excellent health service for the fee you pay."

One thing the health center has done recently to meet AAAHC standards is formulate a patient bill of rights and responsibilities. Portions of the bill state that each health center patient has a right to care and treatment, regardless of race, creed, sex, national origin, or religion; the right to diagnosis, prognosis and method(s) of treatment that are explained clearly, and the right to refuse treatment to the extent permitted by law.

In turn, the bill also states that each health center patient has the responsibility to provide accurate information relating to any health matter; to follow the treatment plan recommended by those primarily responsible for patient's care; and to accept personal responsibility for refusing treatment.

The health center will pay \$3,400 for expenses incurred by the AAAHC during the review process.