

Daily Nebraskan

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Wednesday, March 17, 1982

Vol. 109 No. 47

Lincoln, Nebraska

Copyright 1982 Daily Nebraskan

Shinn's speech encourages nuclear disarmament

By Jim Wegman

A professor of social ethics cited a recent statement by Soviet Prime Minister Leonid Brezhnev as evidence of "concrete" movement toward nuclear disarmament.

Roger L. Shinn, Reinhold Niebuhr Professor of Social Ethics and Counselor to Graduate Students at Union Theological Seminary in New York, was the final guest speaker in the 1981-1982 Atkinson Theological Lectures. Shinn spoke about "Ecumenical Discussions on Disarmament" to approximately 60 people in the Nebraska Union Tuesday.

Before his speech, Shinn heard reports that Brezhnev issued a unilateral moratorium on medium-range missiles. This is intended to reduce a certain number of those missiles, Shinn said.

Shinn is the author of a dozen books and is working on another called *Forced Opinions: Social Decisions of the 20th and 21st Centuries*.

His speech focused on a report given at a World Council of Churches hearing in Amsterdam last November.

The hearing was attended by world leaders in theology, science and politics, including three Soviet scientists. Shinn said it was the first time Soviet scientists attended such a hearing.

The hearing began a day after an estimated 400,000 people attended a peace rally in Amsterdam, Shinn said.

The hearing had several purposes, Shinn said. First, those attending assessed the current situation. Second, they attempted to develop Christian thinking about the

subject, and thirdly, they worked to promote a climate of thinking about nuclear disarmament, Shinn said.

"The hearing was not designed to be a cheer rally or demonstration," Shinn said.

Platitudes

He said the main problem with such hearings is deciding how to get from platitudes to the concrete. "The platitudes are easy to agree on," he said.

"The church begins with a faith that generates an ethic," Shinn said. A policy can then be made from that ethic.

To determine some policies, the nuclear disarmament situation was discussed from scientific-technological, political and economic views.

The traditional principles of waging a war by destroying combatants and weapons instead of cities has been altered by new technology, Shinn said.

If nuclear weapons are targeted on the enemies' weapons, the basic assumption is that they might be used.

If either side gets weapons or thinks it has weapons to wipe out the enemies' weapons, it would be very much tempted to do so, Shinn said, especially if tension increases between them.

If weapons are targeted at cities, the basic assumption is that they will not be used, Shinn said.

Nuclear Spotlight

In the political realm of nuclear weapons, the United

States and the Soviet Union are in the spotlight, Shinn said. There is "plenty of embarrassment on both sides," he said.

The United States' policy not to strike first in nuclear war coupled with NATO's renunciation of such a policy make for an embarrassing political situation. As does a Soviet submarine running aground in Sweden's waters, Shinn said.

Third World countries protested expenditures for nuclear armaments and the diversion of resources to build them, Shinn said. They said the resources could better be used to promote a better life for all, Shinn said.

Three policies were proposed at the hearing, Shinn said.

The first was balanced disarmament through negotiation, the same approach used in the SALT I and SALT II talks.

The second proposal was brought forth by George Rathjens, a physicist at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He proposed unilateral initiatives. This would involve disarming one's own nuclear weapons by approximately 10 percent and waiting for the opponent to reciprocate. Little risk would be involved because the United States and the Soviet Union already have the capability of overkill, Shinn said.

He also heard radio reports that the Russian Orthodox Church is planning a disarmament seminar in Moscow. Billy Graham has been invited to give the opening speech, but the White House is trying to discourage him from going, Shinn said.

These reports indicate a movement toward disarmament, even if they are not carried through, Shinn said.

"We have the opportunity to work, to struggle, to hope. Any mature faith will motivate people to struggle," Shinn said.

Professors discuss procedures to reduce anonymity of students

By Leslie Kendrick

Reducing student anonymity in the classroom can be beneficial, not only to the student but also to the instructor, said John Demuth, professor and chief adviser of chemistry Tuesday at the UNL Century Club meeting in the Nebraska Union.

Ted Parly, associate professor of life sciences, said he brought up the subject of student anonymity because students often complain on teacher evaluations that they do not get to know the professor in a large classroom.

Although faculty members must be careful not to take student anonymity too seriously, anonymity is a hindrance when a student is doing badly in a class and does not seek help, said Donald Jensen, professor of psychology.

Instructors trying to reduce student anonymity in their classes may be perceived as hypocritical by trying to get students to like them, agronomy professor Robert Sorenson said.

Some students simply do not want to be known by instructors, associate professor of history Peter Maslowski said. Some see the breakdown of anonymity as infringing on their rights, he said.

Several professors attending the meeting said reducing anonymity was important because it benefits both instructors and students. Demuth said teaching beginning chemistry year after year can become dull, but learning students' faces and names can make instructing the same class more interesting.

Instructors at the club's meeting gave examples of how they reduced anonymity in their large classrooms.

Maslowski said his method was to leave the podium frequently and to walk up and down the aisles of his classroom.

"But it can be disconcerting to the student who is safely ensconced in the middle of the classroom to have me clomping down the aisle," he said.

Maslowski said he also breaks his classroom down into small discussion groups which require the instructor to get to know students better.

Demuth and chemistry professor David Brooks said they both take pictures of the students and study them. In addition, they both make an effort to see every student in each of their laboratory sections.

Brooks said he has a computer program that can print out how each student is doing. In that way, Brooks said he can give personal attention to each student's performance during his visits to the lab.



Jim Ross

Photo by Dave Bentz

UNL's Boss of the Year enjoys job

By Gah Huey

Jim Ross, UNL's Boss of the Year, says he doesn't know why he was given the award.

"I'm not sure if I deserve it, but I'm not giving it back," Ross said of the award.

Ross, assistant athletic director and manager of the Bob Devaney Sports Center, was named Boss of the Year last week by the UNL Office Personnel Association, an organization of UNL secretaries and clerical workers.

Ross' secretary, Connie Wesslund, nominated him. According to Wesslund, she sent a resume and background information about Ross to the personnel association. She also sent a letter telling why she thought Ross should be nominated.

The association, whose president is Lorraine Childers, selected Ross on the basis of leadership, motivation and interpersonal skills.

At last week's award luncheon, Ross was given the award. UNL Chancellor Martin Messengale presented Ross with a plaque and certificate.

Ross has worked at UNL for 20 years. He previously coached high school football in Michigan. In 1962, he came to UNL and has been assistant athletic director for the past six years.

Ross said he enjoys his work and likes living in Nebraska.

"Nebraska has been good to me," he said. "I have a good job and the people here are friendly."

Ross' job as assistant athletic director and sports center manager includes scheduling events, making sure events go as planned and monitoring maintenance staff and secretaries. Ross said he directly and indirectly supervises the staff at the sports center.

Ross said he has no complaints about working at UNL.

"Overall, there has been more good times than bad times," he said.

Professor: Unrest confined to Poland

There is little chance that the unrest that has plagued Poland for the past year will spread to other Eastern European countries, said a professor of history who has just returned from a trip to Eastern Europe.

Robert Fiala, chairman of the social sciences department at Concordia College in Seward, Nebraska, returned to the United States last month.

Fiala led a tour group of students that visited the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia. The group was scheduled to visit Poland, but that was cancelled after martial law was imposed Dec. 13 last year.

Fiala said a movement like Solidarity would not evolve in Czechoslovakia.

"The government is firmly in control there," Fiala said. "The Czech people have seen what's happened in Poland and they had their own experience with the Russians in 1968."

Fiala said conditions in Poland would "continue along the same lines for awhile."

"They (the Russians) don't want to go in there at all," Fiala said. "It would be a definite loss of prestige in the West if they went into Poland. They're very happy to let the Polish government handle the situation."

Fiala will speak tonight at 7:30 in the South Cellar of the Nebraska Union. His talk is sponsored by the Komenski Club, a campus organization that tries to perpetuate the language and customs of the Czechs.