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Zorinsky says continued financial aid essential

By Eric Peterson

Continued financial aid to students is essential, said U.S. Sen. Edward Zorinsky Tuesday in the Nebraska Union. His appearance was sponsored by the ASUN Senate's Government Liaison Committee.

"This is one United States senator who feels some way, somehow, people other than wealthy people should be able to have a college education," Zorinsky said. But Zorinsky said student financial aid programs will probably be reduced, though not by as much as the current administration has proposed. He said nearly all federal programs face some reductions from school lunches to the defense budget. It's uncertain how extensive the reductions will be, he said.

"I think the support (for or against the Reagan financial aid reductions) is pretty well split. Now is the time to get the letters coming in, and they do pay attention to the letters."

Zorinsky said financial aid programs must not bear an unfair burden of the budget cuts, especially when education is necessary to re-establish the United States as a leadership entity.

"There's a danger that while we save an economy, we'll lose a nation."

Education will have to share priority status with agriculture, Zorinsky said.

"I think this last farm bill was a blueprint for failure," he said. Without higher commodity price supports and an ethyl alcohol promotion program, he said, the family farm system will be replaced by conglomerates.

Senior senator

Zorinsky said he has learned how the Congressional system works in spite of the frustrating seniority system.

The Omaha senator is now the third-ranking Democrat on the Senate Agricultural Committee and the fifth-ranking Democrat on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

He said the Falkland Islands crisis shows how overheated rhetoric can make countries commit themselves past the point of no return in a military conflict.

"The politicians in both countries probably welcome this diversion to draw attention away from domestic problems."

Zorinsky attacked the Reagan administration for backing away from campaign promises.

"Reagan's promise of a balanced budget by 1984 shortly became a 'goal,' and then he said it wasn't very important after all."

Zorinsky said the administration has also tried to fake evidence of Soviet intervention in Nicaragua, and has sent \$11 million to the private sector in Nicaragua after the revolution against right-wing dictator Anastasio Somoza.

Arms race

Zorinsky said he disagrees with Reagan's assertion that the United States is behind the Soviet Union in the arms race, saying this country is behind in certain aspects and ahead in others.

"It's a complicated formula."

He said that the Reagan administration has violated a commitment to an accelerated SALT III talks process.

"I think they must just cheer over there (in the Soviet Union) at the way we run our foreign policy."

When asked for his position about placing the MX missile system in western Nebraska, Zorinsky said "I supported the MX missile in its mobile basing mode, not its stationary basing mode." Zorinsky said the switch from the



Photo by Dave Bentz

Sen. Edward Zorinsky

mobile plan to a permanent placing such as in western Nebraska was an example of the frequent stupidity that takes place in political decision-making.

Zorinsky said he will not endorse the Norden Dam project in Nebraska until legal tangles in the state courts are resolved.

Zorinsky said his most controversial vote, in favor of selling AWACS planes to Saudi Arabia, may have cost him \$250,000 in re-election campaign contributions. Zorinsky said Congress's blocking of the sale would have eroded the president's ability to make foreign policy.

Human rights group defends actions

Lincoln's Commission on Human Rights answered charges that it improperly campaigned for passage of the gay rights amendment at its meeting Tuesday.

Commissioner Beatty Brasch said the commission's ordinance allows it to inform and lobby the public on its findings on issues.

She said the commission was within this ordinance when it sent letters to civic groups notifying them of the commission's stand on the gay rights issue and stating its willingness to provide speakers on the topic.

The commission's Tuesday response was triggered by a charge against the commission by amendment opponent Bill Thierstein at the Lincoln City Council meeting Monday.

Thierstein charged that the commission was not acting in its role as a government entity to stay out of the "political arena."

Commissioner Tim Sindelar said the commission

had agreed unanimously to forward the letters and work for the amendment.

He said no tax dollars are being used when the commissioners speak about the topic.

After the meeting, Brasch said speakers will be either commissioners or others in favor of the amendment, depending on what any particular civic organization wants. The speakers, she said, will inform the public of the commission's findings and recommendations.

They will, in effect, speak in favor of the gay rights amendment.

Chairman Jerry Loos said the commission is definitely working within its role. He said the commission's unanimous finding was that discrimination does exist, and it is following its ordinance with its actions.

Loos said Thierstein's charge and subsequent charges will not affect the outcome of the amendment.

Deteriorating displays moved from museum, placed in storage area

By Melinda Norris

Virtually all of the carved ivory pieces and much of the leather and bead work has been removed from public display at the State Museum, Director James Gunnerson said.

These displays were removed and placed in storage in Nebraska Hall in an attempt to reduce their deterioration rate, he said.

The museum, built 50 years ago with the most modern forms of climate control available then, has become ineffective for controlling the temperature and humidity in the museum, Gunnerson said.

The displays have been placed in storage where they are accessible for museum research, but the conditions in Nebraska Hall are not much of an improvement.

"The conditions are not ideal by a long shot," Gunnerson said. "But they are better than in Morrill Hall."

An attempt to improve the conditions in Morrill Hall was defeated by the Nebraska Legislature last week. LB632, introduced by Don Wesely of Lincoln, would have earmarked \$20,000 to study climate control options for the museum.

The \$20,000 would have been the initial step in the renovation project, Gunnerson said. The museum would need an additional \$100,000 to \$200,000 for planning and \$500,000 to \$2 million for construction.

"If it is this hard to get a bill for \$20,000 passed, I expect it would be much more difficult to get a larger bill through," he said.

The renovation of Morrill Hall also is included in the capital construction budget submitted to the Legislature by the NU Board of Regents, but there are "many, many, items on the list with higher priority," Gunnerson said.

The priorities for capital construction change each year, said Robert Rutford, vice chancellor for research and graduate studies.

"We are aware of the problem. We haven't ignored it," Rutford said. "But it is only one of a bunch of problems on campus."

Morrill Hall is more than just a museum, he said. It is a public facility which houses classrooms and the Department of Geology. If Bessey Hall is renovated, the Geology Department could be moved into it, and the museum could be isolated. Then, renovation could begin.

Gunnerson predicted proper climate controls could slow the deterioration process to between 1 percent and 5 percent of the current deterioration rate.

"Some items are very, very static under the present conditions," he said. "There will be very little change in 10,000 years."

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Photo by Jodie Fields

George "Jed" Smock, an evangelist who has made previous visits to UNL, preached to a crowd at Broyhill Fountain Tuesday afternoon.