

# Gubernatorial candidates . . .

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Thone said high interest rates are stifling Nebraska. The rates have come down dramatically, but they are still too high, he said.

"When Ruthie and I went to the White House the first thing on the agenda when we talked with the president was high interest rates," Thone said.

The candidates showed different stances on volatile social issues including abortion, gay rights, capital punishment and prayer in school.

Thone said he favors a constitutional amendment for school prayer and the death penalty as a deterrent to crime. He said he voted against the gay rights ordinance in Lincoln last May.

"Abortion is an issue that dramatizes the difference between the candidates," Thone said. "I have consistently opposed abortion, no flim-flams, no flip-flops."

Kerrey said he thinks abortion is wrong and that the state has an obligation to restrict it. He said he opposes the death penalty but said if elected governor, he would support the law requiring capital punishment. Kerrey said he is opposed to the constitutional amendment allowing prayer in school and has been a member of the Lincoln Human Rights Commission that supported the gay rights amendment.

"I have felt very strongly about discrimination ever since I served in Vietnam," he said. "That amendment lost in the most liberal city in the state by a four to one margin, so I don't think that it is an issue for the state."

Thone charged Kerrey with "flip-flopping" on a number of issues and being indecisive. Thone said Kerrey has changed his position on right-to-work laws, the ETSI project and water conservation. Thone maintained that Kerrey had an off-the-record meeting with Omaha labor leaders, where a repeal of the right-to-work law was promised.

Kerrey said politicians should be able to change and reflect.

"I'm not going to point out that Mr. Thone has

changed his positions on pay raises for state employees, the Norfolk Regional Center and the bank bill," Kerrey said.

Quoting a Johnny Mercer song, Thone said he wants to "accentuate the positive and eliminate the 'negative.'" Kerrey puts politics ahead of principle, he said.

"The Thone campaign says that it is accentuating the positive, but they're accelerating my head," Kerrey said, in reference to a recent commercial that portrays him as being indecisive. "I'm a big boy and I will survive these attacks, but it still makes me angry," he said.



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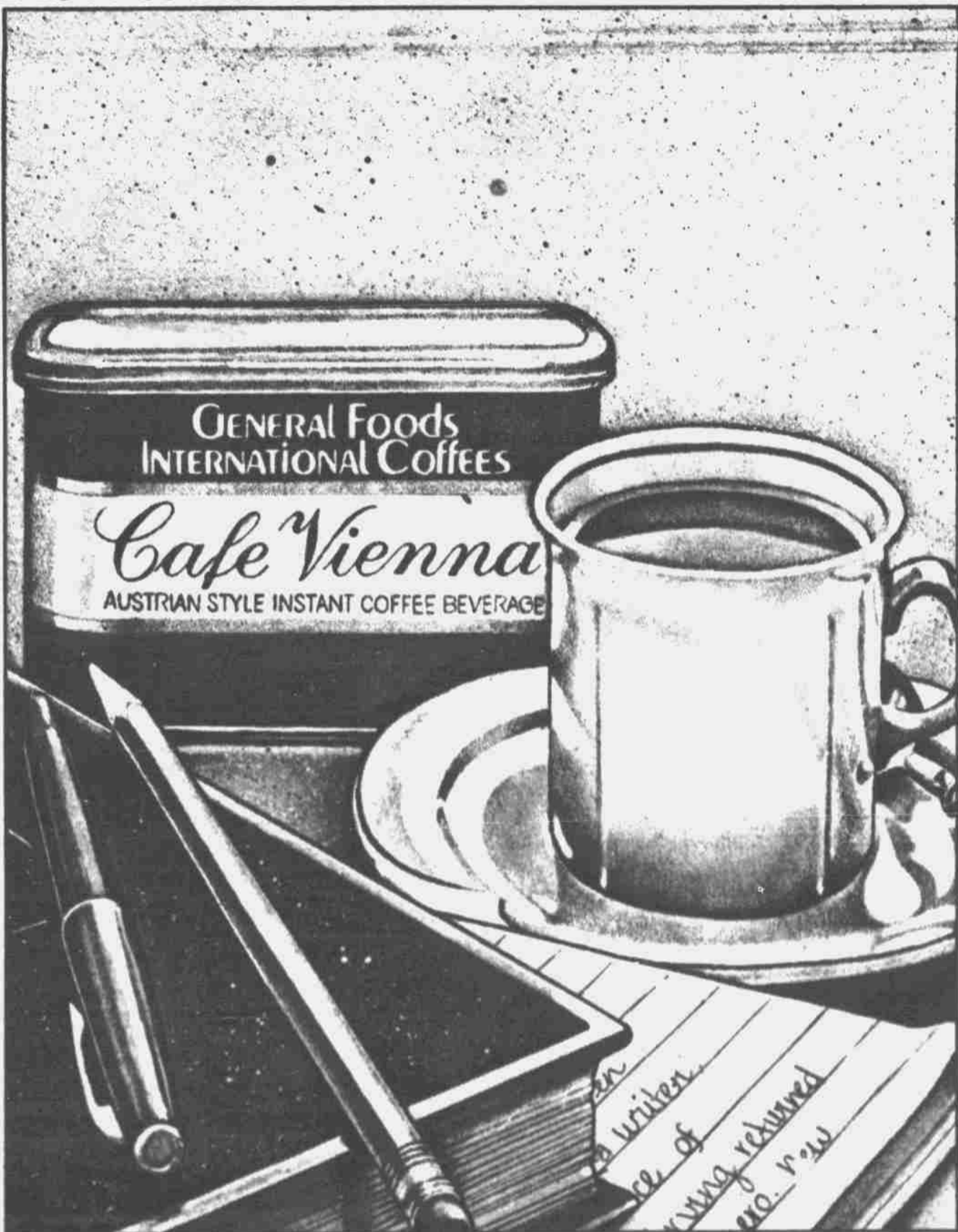
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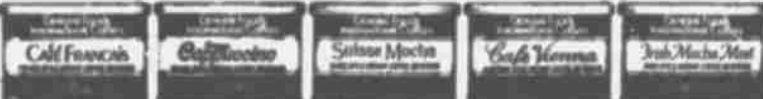
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