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Tuition surcharge proposed to offset budget cuts

By Laurie Moses

The Arts and Sciences Executive Committee and the Arts and Sciences Council have approved a proposal that would prepare for possible UNL budget cuts.

The proposal asks that classes be closed for approximately one week, early in the spring semester, and that a 10 percent surcharge on students tuition be assessed.

Both the executive committee and the council are comprised of chairpersons from each of the college's departments. The council also includes vice chairpersons.

June Levine, associate professor of English and a member of the Arts and Sciences Council, said UNL administrators have asked the colleges to prepare for possible budget cuts to be made by the Nebraska Legislature.

The legislature will meet in a special session beginning Nov. 5 to reduce the state's budget for this year.

"The state is facing a large deficit right now. Our first desire is not to have to face any cuts in the spring," Levine said. "The budget cut would be 4 to 6 percent. That would amount in the Arts and Sciences department to between \$800,000 to \$1.2 million dollars. The money just isn't there," she said.

The Arts and Sciences Council believes that halting classes for about a week and not paying the faculty for that week early in the spring semester would save about \$500,000, Levine said.

Also, the 10 percent surcharge on student tuition would be roughly equivalent to a 4 to 6 percent cut, she said.

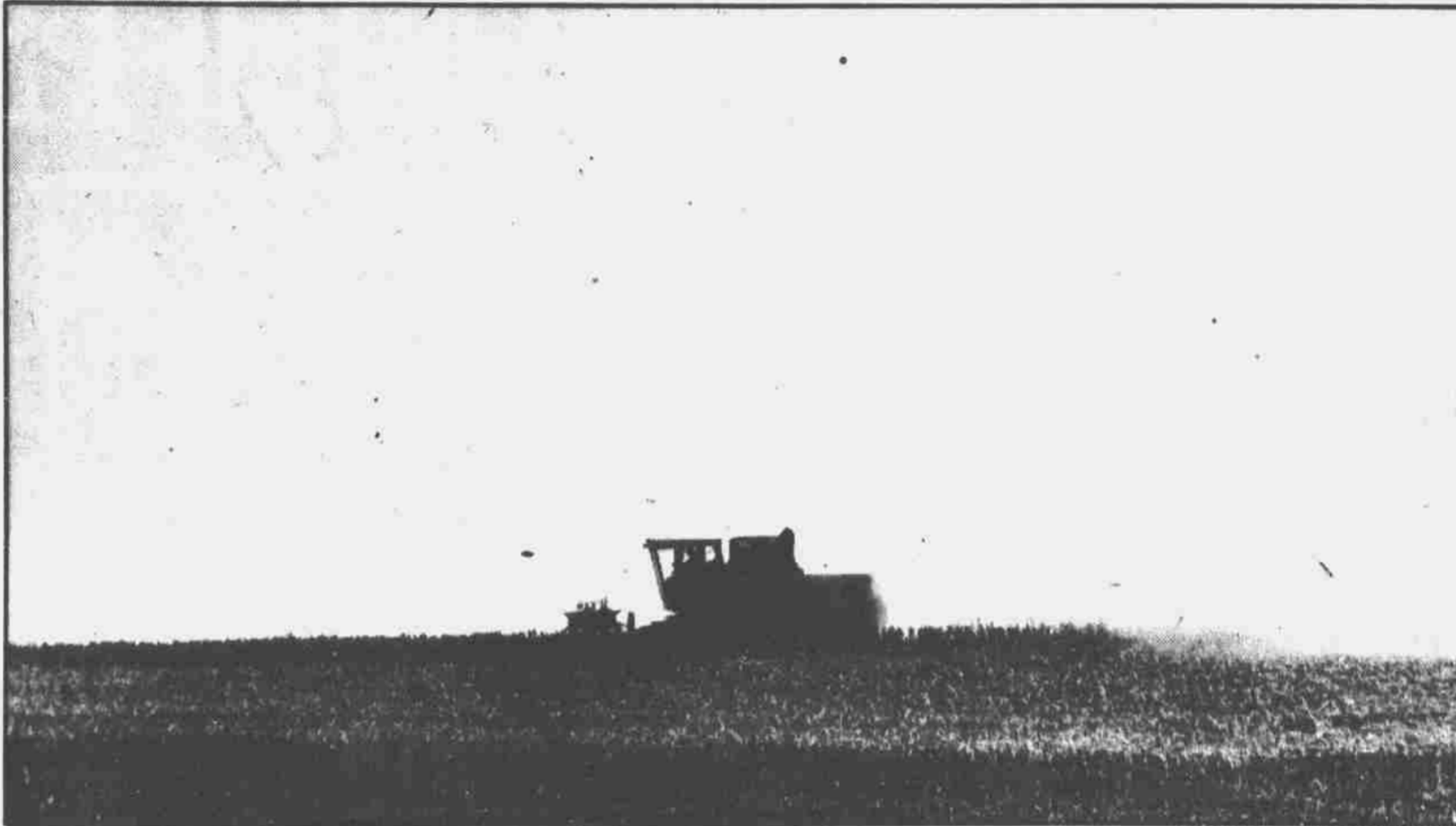
"A number of departments have met and voted on this proposal. The English department passed closing down and docking pay overwhelmingly. Also psychology and

sociology (departments) have passed this proposal. The 10 percent surcharge was passed with great reluctance," Levine said.

"We mainly want to tell citizens in the state that we can't do more with less, we can only do less with less.

We think the most clear and dramatic way in conveying this and not impairing the base budget is to close the classes and put in the surcharge," she said.

"We simply can't expect to demand that the deficit be ignored," Levine said.



Staff Photo by Dave Bentz

A lone farmer near Lincoln clears his field of milo Tuesday. Area farmers are in the midst of the harvesting season.

Nuclear defense relies on massive evacuations

By Vicki Ruhga

If a nuclear bomb were dropped on Lincoln, the city probably would have longer notice than 20 minutes, Francis Laden, state director of the Nebraska Civil Defense Agency, said.

"Most people with definitive knowledge do not believe the 1950s philosophy that some Sunday morning, someone is just going to push a button and launch a nuclear bomb," Laden said. "There has got to be some reason; for example, a change in the status of European or Mid-east countries."

The new philosophy is known as an increased tension period, and it would probably last about two weeks, he said.

During the increased tension period, Laden said, a Crisis Relocation Period (CRP) would take place. It would involve the movement of people from areas con-



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sidered dangerous risk areas to areas that are thought to be outside of the direct effects, such as the heat and blast of a nuclear bomb.

Laden said Nebraska has four risk areas, which are Omaha (Strategic Air Command, Offutt), Lincoln (state capital), South Sioux City (air bases) and Kimball, Cheyenne and Barren counties (offensive missile bases connected with Warren Air Force Base in Wyoming).

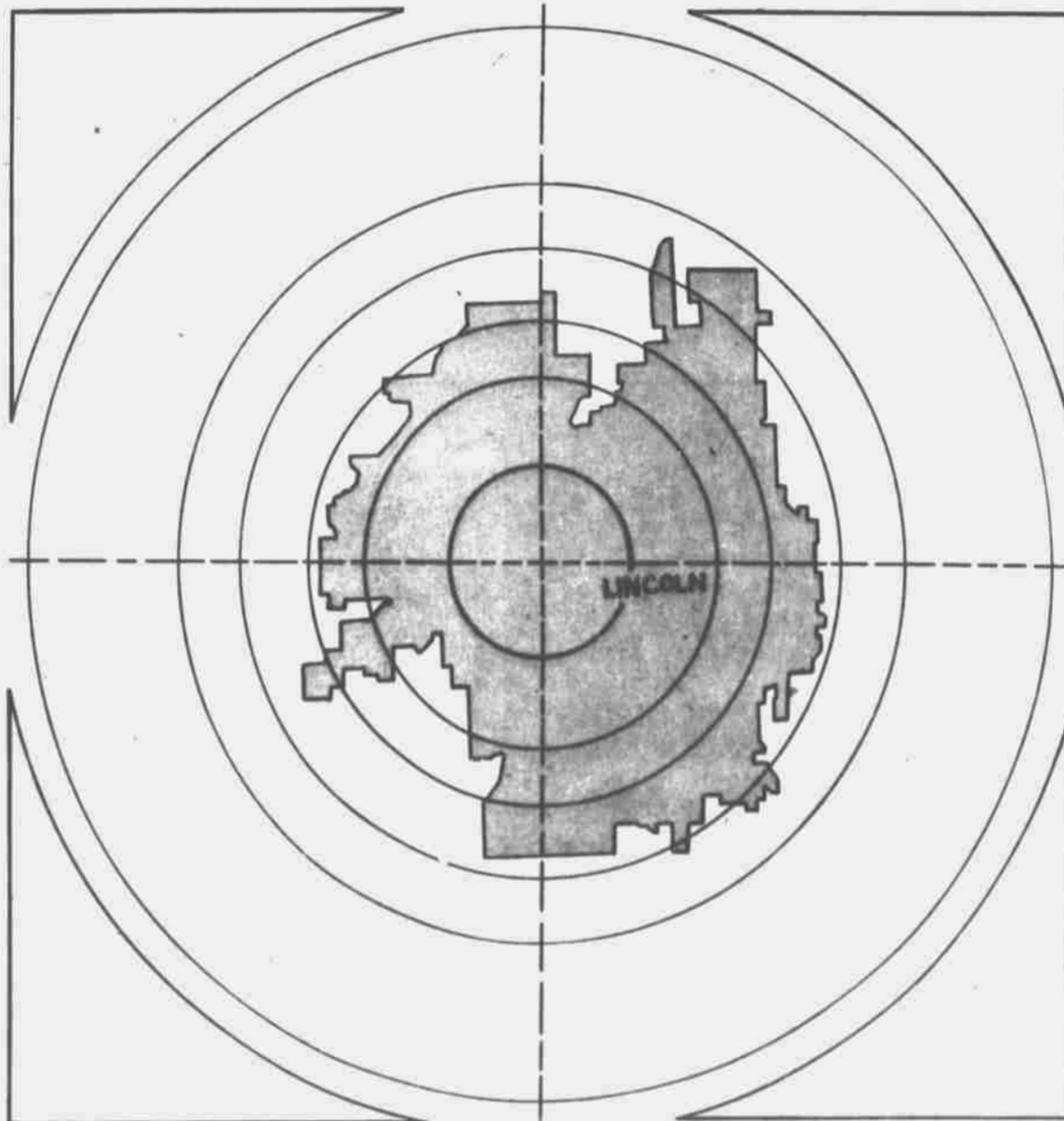
Population evacuated

"One-half to two-thirds of the U.S. population would have to be moved to someplace else, so CRP would not be done without good reason," said Laden. "It would be a very big step by the national government."

Laden said residents of Lincoln would be relocated in Hastings.

Laden said people in risk areas would have to bring survival supplies with them. These would include clothing, bedding and food, personal safety items such as prescriptions, and tools such as a hammer, ax, nail and screwdriver for constructing a fallout shelter.

Brian Coyne of the Nebraska Nuclear Freeze Association said he believes that



the crisis relocation plan is absurd.

"Besides the practical matter of getting people out, there is a basic question of whether there will be enough food and shelter for them," Coyne said. "People must bring their own food and transportation. We don't know how people will react in a crisis. What's going to happen if a car breaks down on the highway on the way to Hastings? They will become hysterical."

Other side alarmed

Coyne said he thinks that the crisis relocation will escalate the crisis period. As one side moves out, it will look like they are getting ready to absorb a nuclear attack. This will alarm the other side, he said.

Another issue is how long people can stay in the shelter areas without a lot of

problems, he said.

Coyne said that by giving information on relocation planning, the government is making a nuclear attack seem survivable.

"Most people who are for the freeze do not believe that an attack is survivable," he said. "People are being lulled into believing crisis relocation will work, and they are given a false sense of security."

The actual warning of a nuclear attack would come from the National Warning System of Norad, which is located in Colorado Springs, Colo. It goes to all states as well as all the counties in Nebraska, Laden said.

The Emergency Public Information system and Emergency Broadcasting System would then be used to inform people of the attack. Laden said the national program for civilian defense of a nuclear

attack can take two basic forms.

The first option is to provide shelter for people, he said. It would involve building blast shelters with 42-inch walls to protect people from the blast and heat. The estimated cost of this is about \$100 billion, he said.

Fallout is problem

Laden said the alternative is to move people from where they are at risk to where they would be safer. However, this still leaves the problem of protection from fallout, he said.

Richard Gilbert, a UNL chemical engineer, said fallout results when a bomb goes off, because much of the nuclear radiation is in the form of dust and dirt particles in the bomb's mushroom cloud.

Some of the particles become radioactive as they go up with the cloud. When they come back down, they blanket the ground with radiation, Gilbert said.

However, he said that not all particles become radioactive; it depends on what they are.

If the radiation is strong enough, it kills everything on the ground. If it is less strong, it kills gradually because certain molecules in the body change, he said.

If the radiation is low enough, Gilbert said, nothing may happen.

However, if a person's body cannot adjust to the changes caused by radiation, diseases like leukemia and cancer can be the result, he said. In the long run, it could result in genetic changes passed from parent to child.

Generally, Gilbert said, the effects of radiation are accumulative. There is no such thing as a "harmless" dose, he said. Enough radiation will eventually do some damage.

Gilbert said it is impossible to determine how long fallout would last. It may be a few weeks to more than a year, depending on the size of the blast, he said.

Basically, Gilbert said, the two dangerous aspects of a nuclear bomb are the blast itself and then the radioactivity.

Laden said the effects of the fallout factor could be reduced by simply being undercover in someplace like a basement. He said radioactive particles decay quite rapidly. For every sevenfold increase in time, radioactive particles decay tenfold.

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