

Kerrey: Nebraska needs tight budget

By Mike Schmoldt

Gov. Bob Kerrey explained his budget philosophy and discussed other economic issues Monday before a crowd of about 250 people at the Nebraska Center for Continuing Education.

Kerrey, guest speaker at a breakfast meeting of Lincoln legislators and their constituents, said he based his budget proposals on a 4 percent increase over last year's expenditures.

"Unemployment is still up and farm prices are still down," Kerrey said. "In these times, an austere budget is called for."

Half of the \$747 million budget for 1983-84 will go for state aid to local governments and individuals, he said. Another 23 percent represents aid to higher education and 22 percent will be spent for government operations, he said.

Kerrey said he assumed during the budget-making process that the

Legislature would increase the income tax rate to 20 percent of the federal income tax effective March 1 and that the sales tax would remain at 3.5 percent.

The state income tax rate increase will not become effective until this summer if the Legislature does not pass the tax bill with an emergency clause. Kerrey said he hoped the clause would be added in order to avoid cash flow problems.

Aid to state colleges and the University of Nebraska will total \$174 million, representing an increase of 4.9 percent over last year. Kerrey called that a major increase.

Another budget increase is more than the state can afford, Kerrey said. A state law passed last year requires the state to take over counties' shares of Medicaid payments, now 14 percent of the total. Kerrey has introduced a bill that would delay the takeover one year until July 1984. Counties asked the state to take

over Medicaid payments because counties do not administrate the Medicaid program.

Kerrey said he is forming a task force this week, composed of city, county and state officials, to sort out which programs are administrated by which branch of government, and to find out who is receiving benefits and who is paying for them.

In the face of these and other budget problems, Kerrey did not rule out the possible need for "mid-year corrections" or budget changes like the ones made in the last special session of the Legislature.

Kerrey criticized the federal government for "an extraordinary deficit — \$200 billion." The debt is drawing off money that could be invested in business ventures that would create more jobs, he said.

"I intend to go out and aggressively recruit industries like the food processing industry," Kerrey said. "I'm going

to encourage people to invest right here, even though the federal government can bid a better price. I'm going to say to Nebraskans — don't do it."

"A \$20 billion deficit years ago would have been considered inflationary. Now economists are saying that a \$200 billion deficit has produced the lowest inflation rate in years. That's confusing," he said.

Kerrey said he distrusts a proposed tax on services as a cure for the state's financial problems.

"You don't tax your way out of problems," Kerrey said. "A lot of things we can do in government don't cost a lot of money. It doesn't cost anything for me to be an advocate for the state."

"Nebraska has a history of being progressive. We can continue to be progressive if I am successful in recruiting strong administrators and managers and if I can control expenses at the state level."



BARTENDING

It's not just for men anymore

By Kristi Lynch

When you hear the word bartender, do you associate it with the male gender? Well, times have changed and women now are being seen behind the bar as much as men, mixing spirits and pouring ale.

Jill Shaw is a bartender and one of six managers at Horsefeathers, WC's and WC's South in Lincoln. Shaw, who is working on her master's degree in counseling at UNL, said she thinks society stereotypes occupational positions for males and females.

Behind the bar, she said, it makes no difference whether a bartender is male or female.

Shaw said a female bartender can get a customer who is acting obnoxious out of the bar just as easily as a male bartender can.

"I think it depends on the bartender," she said. "If I'm a woman who people don't respect, then it would be harder to kick someone out; I just know it's respect."

A bartender can't take anything personally when bartending, Shaw said.

"You've got to be tough in the bar," she said. "Someone may yell and scream at you, but you can't take that personally."

Sydney Knox, a UNL student majoring in accounting, is a bartender at P.O. Pears. She said she sometimes runs into problems while she is bartending, but she has learned how to handle them.

"Occasionally, you will get a man who likes to push you around," she said. "Or you get a lot of come-ons or offers, but I just say, 'I have to work until 2 (a.m.)' or 'thanks but no thanks.'"

Knox said she may have had some opposition from some of the males when she started bartending.

"I got the feeling that they felt a woman was not capable or physically strong enough to do it," she said.

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Staff photo by Dave Bentz

Sen. Ernie Chambers

Sen. Chambers: Put players on payroll

By Mona Koppelman

Cornhusker football players are told to play football "for nothing," or "for the love of the game," while UNL rakes in cash and benefits, according to Sen. Ernie Chambers of Omaha.

Chambers appeared Monday before the Legislature's education committee to present LB211, which would classify UNL football players as university employees, while keeping their amateur status.

"Other students in other pursuits get paid for what they do on campus . . . nobody says this pay causes this student not to be a student in fact. It's hypocrisy," he said.

Chambers cited examples from colleges that were making under-the-table payments to their players.

"Now these people at the NCAA can talk all the hypocritical baloney about amateurism all they want to," Chambers said, "but they know that these athletes are being paid . . . and not only with money; they're being paid with female flesh, too."

James O'Hanlon, UNL representative to the Big Eight Conference and the NCAA, said that LB211 would make athletes professionals, despite the provision in the bill preserving players' amateur status.

O'Hanlon said that in November 1982, the NU Board of Regents passed a resolution providing lifetime disability protection to anyone injured in an athletic contest. Members of the Big Eight conference passed a similar resolution in December 1982, and the NCAA in April will present a disability insurance plan of up to \$5 million for an injured athlete.

Sen. Sam Cullan of Hemingford asked O'Hanlon if this program, that is "directly related to their (the players') participation in the sport," was not itself a form of compensation.

"There are two kinds of compensation," O'Hanlon said. "Those the NCAA allows and those the NCAA does not allow." O'Hanlon said the disability protection was a form of compensation, however.

"As Sen. Cullan pointed out, the insurance plan that they've adopted is compensation," Chambers said. "They're acknowledging that these athletes, because of what they do and the money generated and the risks to them, are entitled to some recompense and they're not doing it."



Staff photos by Joel Sartore

The tip jar sits on the bar at Horsefeathers, where UNL graduate student Jill Shaw tends bar several times a week.

