Nebraskan Sens. Cullan, Labedz sponser work-study bill

By Mona Koppelman

Nebraska does "absolutely nothing" for its students financially, according to Sen. Sam Cullan of Hemingford. Cullan and Sen. Bernice Labedz of Omaha want to change that.

Cullan and Labedz are co-sponsoring LB126, which would provide a partially state-funded work-study program for eligible students.

"The basic philosophy behind the bill is to allow students to finance their schooling through work experience," Cullan said. "The work is designed to relate to a student's particular field of education . . . for example, an engineering student could work for the Department of Roads."

Cullan said that if LB126 becomes law, the state will pay up to 65 percent of a student's salary. The remainder would be paid by the employer.

"We (Labedz and Cullan) felt that rather than put together another loan or scholarship program, this would have the added advantage of developing good work skills," he said.

"It would allow students to meet people and make contacts in their job markets and learn about how their avocation really functions. It is a good opportunity to see if a student really likes the profession he's chosen," he said.

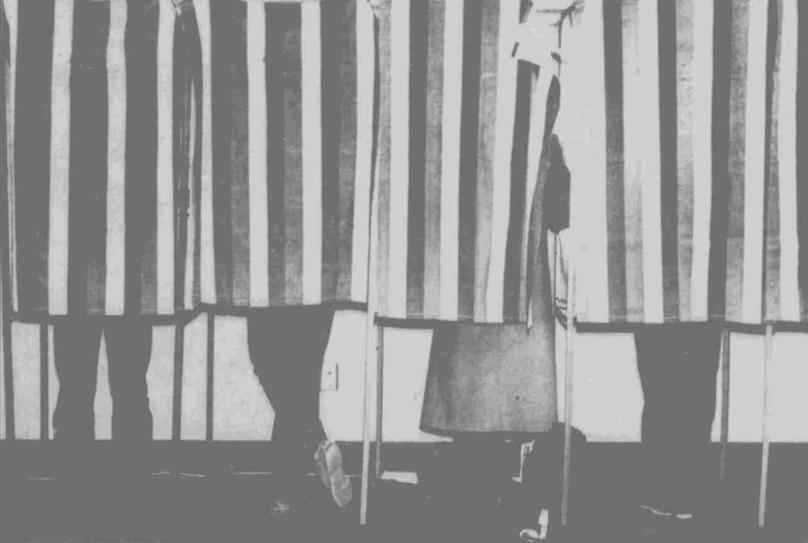
Research for the bill was done by a task force headed by former senator Gerald Koch of Ralston and Cullan, he said.

"Our support for this bill stemmed from our concern over the drying up of funds in student financial aid," Cullan said. "What we found caused me to question the stability of student assistant programs at federal levels."



University of Nebraska-Lincoln

March 10, 1983 Vol. 82, No, 121



Staff photo by Dave Bentz

Students turned out Wednesday to polling places like this one in the Nebraska Union to vote for ASUN Senate candidates.

AT THE WIRE Four votes separate major parties

Wednesday night's ASUN president and first vice president elections came down to the wire, with only four votes separating the leading candidates at midnight Wednesday. A run-off election has been scheduled for next Wednesday, March 16. with 1,225 votes, foll-Reach, with 1,166. Tom Mockler, secon Anarky received 536 vo Write-ins received 5

with 1,225 votes, followed closely by Bill Buntain, of Reach, with 1,166.

Tom Mockler, second vice presidential candidate, for Anarky received 536 votes.

Cullan said a "serious proposition" exists to cut almost half the federal funds distributed at the state and local levels. If this is done, he said, 40 percent of the students in Nebraska receiving state assistance would lose it.

"I felt it was appropriate for the state to move in," he said. "Currently, the state does absolutely nothing . . . just nothing."

"We do some matching of funds, but it amounts to a couple of hundred thousand dollars," he said. "No serious money."

The task force also supports LB255, which would appropriate \$5 million to an existing student scholarship program, he said.

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Presidential candidate Matt Wallace and first presidential candidate Regina Rogers of the Reach partywill square off against Action's Laura Meyer and her running mate, Greg Krieser. Wallace and Rogers received the most votes, 1,175. Meyer and Krieser received 1,171 votes, Election Commissioner Jennifer Fager said.

Conceptual Anarky's presidential candidate, Joni Jacobs, and first vice presidential candidate, Beth Berigan, received 441 votes.

Larry Weixelman, SPARE, and his running mate, Dave Sanden, received 200 votes. Write-in candidates received 44 votes in the race.

The second vice president also will be decided in the run-off election next week. Kay Hinn, Action, led the race Write-ins received 56 votes in the second vice presidential race.

Fager said she was happy with the voter turnout this year, 14 percent compared with last year's 9 percent.

Last year, Fager said, the ballots were counted by 3 a.m., and this year, she estimated that they could be finished around midnight. The ballots were counted by computer both years.

"We knew what we were doing this year," she said. "Last year, it was all trial and error and the Election Commission was all new. This year, only half of the Commission was new."

Fager said the computer system went down only once, for about five minutes around 10:30 p.m.

Complete results of the senatorial races, Fund A questions the nuclear freeze survey and Fund B survey will be available in Friday's Daily Nebraskan.



Courtesy of Nebraska Transcript photo by Dave Bentz

The state Supreme Court conducted a trial at the College of Law Wednesday to give students an opportunity to watch the proceedings up close.

State Supreme Court has session at law college

By Kevin Hanken

UNL law students juggled their schedules Wednesday to find time to attend sessions of the Nebraska Supreme Court in the College of Law's Pie rooms.

The court has sessions at the college every March for the benefit of law students. Wednesday, students heard appeal arguments for five cases before the court.

At first, the Pie room setting may have lacked the official atmosphere of court proceedings, but once the eight judges strode in and the arguments began, the language and mood created a legal aura.

"I think it's (having the session at the college) a terrific idea," said Ephraim Marks, an attorney from Omaha. "I think it puts us all on our mettle, both the court and the lawyers."

Marks said the setting was pleasant to work in as opposed to the sometimes sterile atmosphere of the courtroom. Marks, of the Omaha law firm Marks, Clare, Hopkins, Rauth and Cuddigan, argued on two of the five cases heard.

"I think it's helpful to the law students," he said. "They can watch and see what mistakes to avoid."

Catherine Lang-Morrissey, a third-year law student, said it was interesting to compare how attorneys handled appellate cases with how she was taught to present oral arguments in her courses.

Courses are very structured and specific procedures are followed, she said. These cases, however, seemed more relaxed and not quite as nerve-racking as the courses make them appear.

Lang-Morrissey said she was most interested in the judges' reaction to the attorneys and the way they went about getting the information they wanted from the attorneys.

Susan Fine, a second-year law student, said she was interested in the styles of each lawyer, and the way they presented themselves before the court.

"Basically, I'm pleased they're (the court) out here," said Topher Hansen, a first-year law student. "It is a real good experience to view the appeal process."

Hansen said he particularly was interested in the protocol of the attorneys' presentations, how refined their styles were, and to what degree of finesse they carried out their style.