

# Daily Nebraskan

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## Gregory: War, deficit key issues

By Kris Mullen

The federal deficit and the fear of war will be the two overriding issues of the 1984 federal elections, said Bettina Gregory, ABC-TV senior correspondent.

Gregory, speaking Monday at the Cooper Theater in Lincoln, said Americans today perceive war and the deficit as the most important issues that will determine who is elected president next November.

Taking a brief look at past elections, Gregory said presidents have reflected the public's perceptions on major issues of the time.

After Watergate, the American public was wary of government, she said.

"Carter was elected because he was an outsider," she said. He was the moral and religious person that people were looking for at that time, she said.

But she said the Iranian takeover of the American embassy explains why Ronald Reagan won the 1980 election.

Gregory said the United States lost face during the 444 days of the Iranian hostage crisis.

### Americans wanted strong president

"Americans wanted a person perceived as strong and someone who could deal with someone like the Ayatollah," Gregory said they perceived that John Wayne, "with his white hat and riding his white horse," would be the perfect man for the White House.

Since John Wayne wasn't available, she said,

Ronald Reagan was second best.

As a presidential candidate, Reagan said he would raise defense spending, cut taxes and balance the budget.

Taxes have been cut and military spending has increased, but the deficit has tripled since Reagan was elected, she said.

"The Republicans will have to pay the price for Reaganomics," Gregory said.

She predicted that Reagan will be one of the Republicans seeking re-election or election in 1984.

"If he's walking, he's running," she said.

Walter Mondale now appears to be the strongest Democratic challenger, she said, but senators John Glenn of Ohio and Alan Cranston of California also could receive the Democratic nomination.

"Glenn knows a lot about high technology," she said. "And he is strong on defense."

### "Great fear of war"

Defense will be an important issue because of the public's great fear of war, she said.

Gregory described the U.S. Marine presence in Lebanon as "the worst collision course toward war."

"To call Lebanon anything but a war situation is wrong," she said. She added that since Congress has agreed to allow the marines to be in Lebanon for 18 months, the president elected in 1984 will have to deal with the issue.

The possibility of war with the Soviet Union is the most dangerous issue, she said. And the conflicts in

Central America will not go away whether the United States offers overt or covert aid.

She said that during the "silly season" of election primaries, the public must be informed about the issues and stands taken by candidates.

"Participate and cast a critical eye on the information that comes out," she said.

Since joining ABC in 1974, Gregory has appeared as a reporter, interviewer and anchor on many ABC-TV news programs, including "World News Tonight," "Good Morning America," "Nightline" and "Issues and Answers."

She said her experiences, which included covering the Iran hostage crisis, the Three-Mile Island nuclear accident, civil unrest in Northern Ireland and now Washington D.C., have taught her that fact is more interesting than fiction.

Gregory was the first speaker in the Madonna Professional Care Center Auxiliary, Inc., town hall lecture series.

## Church helps Germans keep tradition

By James A. Funnell

This article contains opinions of the author. It is the second of a three-part series.

### Quick, what would you do?

Your name is Heinrich or Hermann, Martha or Gertrude; you're in America, 5,000 miles from home; you don't speak the language and you wonder why everyone looks at you like you were some sort of new germ.

You are being pulled in two directions at once, one arm clinging to the promise of a new life while the other struggles to hold onto old familiar ways.

You are a German immigrant in Nebraska and, unfortunately, you understand the great dramatist Henrik Ibsen all too well when he writes, "The strongest man in the world is he who stands most alone."

Many German immigrants organized together along religious lines, bringing their determination to the task of building congregations and churches, many here in Lincoln. Through the decades, the churches founded by these German Nebraskans

would come to be a reliable resource.

Frederick Luebke, a UNL history professor, said in his book, "Immigrants and Politics," that the churches had more meaning for the German in America than they had for him in Europe. The immigrants, Luebke said, found themselves in need of the assurances that came from social intercourse with others who shared their German heritage. The church provided the immigrant with a focal place to hold onto his family ways.

Not every immigrant was close to the church, however. Some resented the churches because of the financial contributions that were expected. Others, wanting to become assimilated in the American ways as soon as possible, wanted nothing to do with the church, which they saw as representing the old ways and the old country.

Taking the opposite view were those immigrants who supported and helped build the parish schools of the early German Lutheran and German Catholic churches. These schools were used by the immigrants to keep alive their German language, customs and beliefs in their children.

One of the Lincoln descendants of German immigrants is Herb Wenz, the pastor of First German Congregational Church, at 100 W. F St. The church is 95 years old, dating back to 1888. Wenz explained that the Lincoln church began in 1876 when a German minister named Sallenbach attempted to organize a German congregationalist church serving Germans from Russia. The attempt failed because of the scarcity of German speaking ministers.

In those days, Wenz said, there were no American seminaries that trained German Congregationalist ministers to deliver sermons to an all-German congregation. They had to be trained in either Germany or Sweden.

Aid for these immigrants came from Crete, Neb., where, on Oct. 3, 1883, the nation's first German seminary for Congregationalists was established. Today, having outlined its need, that seminary doesn't exist.

In 1888, a seminary student named Adam Trout successfully organized some immigrants and met with them in Linda's Park School. On March 24, 1889, Wenz said, First German moved into its first church building and dedicated it debt free the same day. The church cost \$1,800 and had a seating capacity of 150 people.

On Dec. 5, 1920, First German moved into its present building at 100 W. F St.

Wenz said that today 60 percent of his congregation have at least a conversational knowledge of German. He added that until the 1970s, First German had supplemental German services for anyone who wanted to stay an extra half hour after regular services.

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## Council to make cuts in research leaves

By Mary Louise Knapp

Year-long research leaves for faculty members will be suspended beginning next year due to budget constraints, said James Klumpp, chairman of both the University Research Council and the UNL Faculty Senate.

The announcement of the research leave suspension was announced in September to faculty members in a letter from the Research Council.

The Research Council is an arm of the Faculty Senate that distributes funds for research to faculty members. Funds are granted on the basis of quality of research, and are provided by the NU Foundation, the federal government and the state.

Klumpp said the Research Council's budget has decreased 47 percent since the year 1976-77, and has decreased \$65,000, or 13 percent, in the last year. The budget for the current school year is \$470,105, he said. The budget cuts are measured in "real" dollars, which take inflation into account, he said, adding that nearly all of the attributable decline has been in state support.

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Staff photo by Craig Anderson

The First German Congregational Church,  
100 W. F. St.