

Evans: Technology hurts 'little guy'

By Joan Korinek

Technology and scientific advances over the years have allowed large corporations to take advantage of small-town businesses, a UNL associate professor of economics said Thursday.

Bert Evans spoke about "Small Business Conditions in the Plains States" at the October meeting of the Center for Great Plains Studies. The seminar was presented at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 12th and R streets.

Evans said that in the late 1800s and early 1900s, changes in technology and finance allowed small businesses to gain profits. But over time, large corporations denied small businesses this privilege.

The rise of technology, science and computers allowed large corporations to take advantage of small-town businesses, Evans said.

Evans said three factors continue to influence corporate control over small businesses: a "massive change in technology" that followed World War II; a large-scale communications advance brought on by the Space Age; and changes in the tax structure.

Evans said the tax structure is a strong element because it increases corporations' ability to put money into their own pockets. This forecloses the opportunity for medium and small businesses to gain profits, he said.

People like to think the economy has free market control, Evans said, when actually the economy is based on a hierarchy with small business on the bottom. After World War II, there was pressure to phase out small-town business people, and move them up the hierarchical ladder, he said. To avoid further decline in small businesses, Evans said, the process of large corporation control should be slowed.

Evans said he would like to see research teams explore economics, education and medicine, and "find out what is important." He suggested that professors get out of the classroom and find out what is going on in the economy.

Evans has a bachelor's degree in agriculture from UNL and earned a master's degree in economics from the University of Texas, and a doctorate in economics from Harvard.

He is a board member of the Center for Rural Affairs.

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Lebanon . . .

Continued from Page 1

Weinberger raised the possibility of increased gunfire from U.S. Navy vessels offshore, saying, "The firepower that is in the naval units offshore is enormous, far greater than the rifles and the mortars the Marines have."

Congressional leaders expressed shock and outrage at the attack and demanded that Reagan clarify the role of U.S. forces in Lebanon. Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass. called the attack "a terrorist Pearl Harbor in the Middle East." He called for the Senate Armed Services Committee to review the

Marines' future role in Lebanon, and warned that Congress would not tolerate a situation where the Marines were "sitting ducks" for attacks by warring factions in the Lebanese capital.

Replacements for those killed or wounded in the explosion left Camp Le Jeune, N.C., Sunday night, their commander said.

Before Sunday's twin attacks, 11 members of the French peacekeeping force in Lebanon had died. Six U.S. Marines had died in attacks and a seventh died in an accident.

Study . . .

Continued from Page 1

• High commitment to each other as individuals and as a group.

• Communication — Strong families talk a great deal and are successful at identifying and resolving problems. They are also very good listeners.

"Listening communicates respect and interest," Stinnett said.

• Religious orientation — the feeling that God or a higher power has a purpose for their lives.

"To these families, the spiritual dimension of their lives is a practical day-to-day experience rather than a theoretical approach to religion," Stinnett said.

He said the awareness of a higher power helps them to see their lives from a different perspective and helps them to be less petty with each other.

• Dealing with crisis in a positive way. "These families can see something positive even in a bad situation," he said. "When they can see this good, it helps keep the individuals from becoming despondent."

• Open expression of appreciation in each other.

"They make each other feel good about themselves," he said.

Stinnett said that industries which

incorporated wellness programs found that not only does productivity increase and absenteeism drop, but that marriage and family happiness increase. Research found that family members also joined in the wellness program.

"It was something that the families could do together and each member saw it as beneficial and even enjoyable," he said.

The department plans to finish a study of strong families in Europe in May 1984, Stinnett said. Two other studies in Pakistan and Iraq are planned.

Stinnett explained the results of the studies in an interview Friday at the East Union. His involvement with the "National Family Strengths and Stress Research Project" was the topic for one of the 24 interviews presented as part of the sixth annual Nebraska Media Days. The event was sponsored by the Department of Agricultural Communications and the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources. The interviews were designed to make available information on different studies and research being conducted at UNL.



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