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Kerrey speaks in support of secondary education bill

By Mona Koppelman

Gov. Bob Kerrey made a special appearance before the Legislative Education Committee Monday to support a bill to improve the state's educational system.

LB994, introduced by the Education Committee, proposes many different solutions to the state's secondary education problems. The bill was spurred by both the National Task Force on Excellence in Education report and a similar study done by a Nebraska committee.

Though the reports suggest new admission guidelines, increased school hours and longer school years, Kerrey addressed what he called "the most controversial and most important" issue: increasing teachers' salaries. The bill would increase secondary teachers' salaries from \$320 million to \$591 million over a period of five or six years.

"We're not going to just buy our way out of the problem," Kerrey said. "But when you have the best teachers, you have the best education system."

Kerrey blamed changes in the economy for attracting teachers away from their profession. He said teachers were accepting jobs in outside industries strictly based on higher salaries.

Kerrey said he wants the increase in

teachers' salaries to be a "shared responsibility." The funds would come from increases in local property taxes and matching state funds.

"Those who criticize the property tax push disregard the fact that salaries would go up anyway," Kerrey said. "We're just saying, if you raise salaries above a certain base level, we'll pay half."

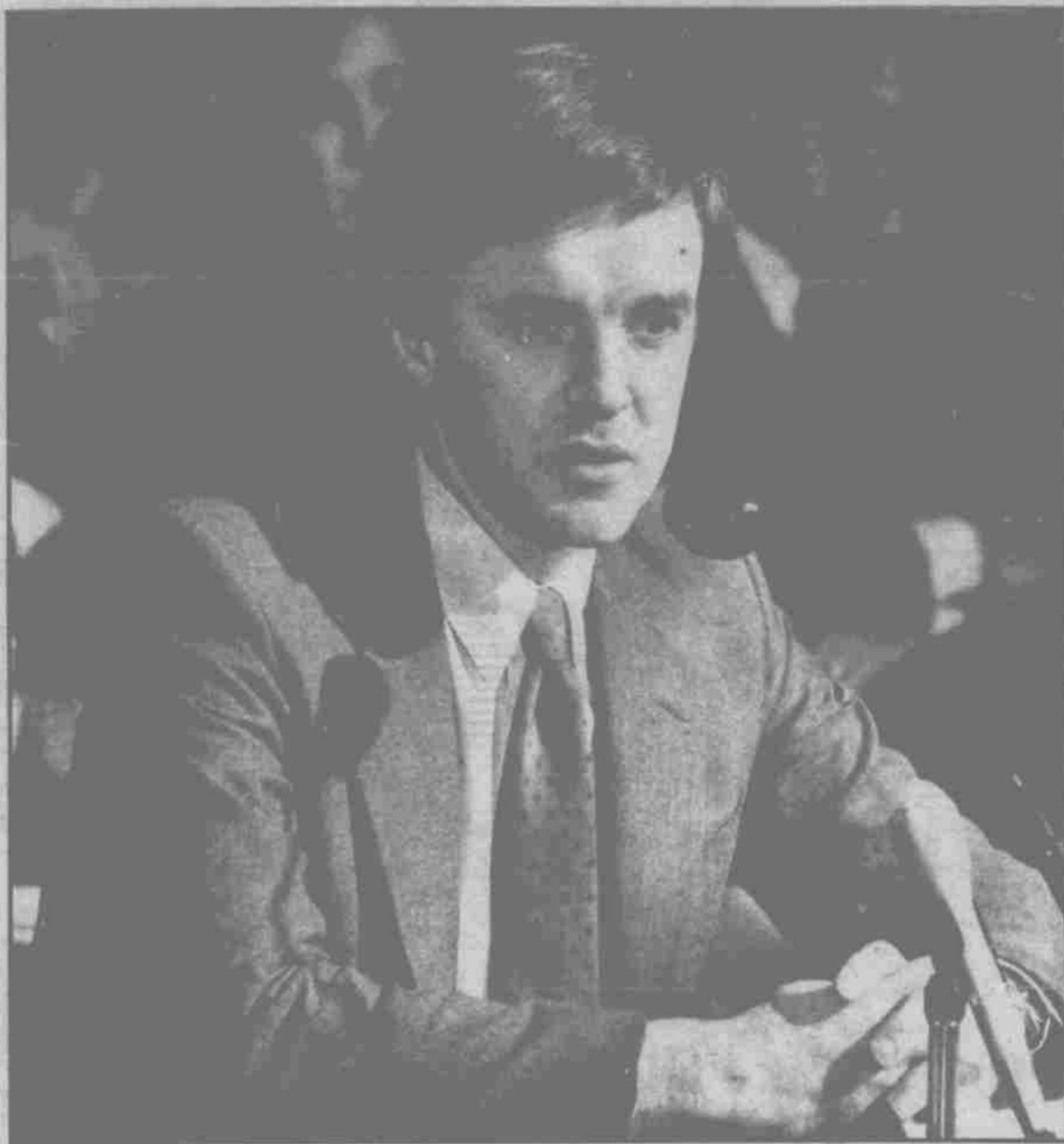
Kerrey said better supervision and evaluation of teachers on a local level were also necessary to make the investment worthwhile.

He said the bill may attract attention because it seems to eliminate tenure, but emphasized that the bill defines incompetence.

"Good people are cheap, no matter what we have to pay them," Kerrey said.

Sen. Howard Lamb of Anselmo expressed some concern about the popularity of a matching funds plan as opposed to a block grant. Kerrey said though the federal government has been leaning toward block grants in recent years, he had yet to see any block funding with no strings attached.

Kerrey noted the number of people in the crowded hearing room, emphasizing the importance of the education issue to Nebraskans.



Craig Andresen/Daily Nebraskan

Gov. Bob Kerrey speaks at a legislative committee hearing Monday.

Soviets 'hang tough' during U.S. elections

By Pam Alward

A member of President Reagan's cabinet and three international experts discussed American foreign policy and arms control Monday in the Nebraska Union.

The four speakers, invited by Ivan Volgyes, UNL political science professor, followed their speeches with an open discussion.

Dr. Stephen Larrabee, vice president of the Institute for East-West Security Studies in New York, spoke on the cause of the current impasse in arms negotiations.

Larrabee said the Soviets backed themselves into a corner by suspending Strategic Arms Reduction Talks and walking out of the Intermediate Nuclear Forces (INF) talks in Geneva.

Although the Soviet Union maintains strong interest in arms control, it can't make any conciliatory gestures because it doesn't want to do anything which could be construed as helping President Reagan, he said.

They are hanging tough until after the election, he said.

Western Europe became more concerned about the arms race after the United States lost strategic superiority, he said. European confidence in American management of its affairs deteriorated, he said, partly because of ex-President Carter's foreign policy.

The three Soviet goals are to divide the United States from its European allies, to divide the nuclear from the non-nuclear powers within Europe and to divide America from its Asian allies, Larrabee said.

Robert Dean, U.S. deputy assistant secretary of state for politico-military affairs, discussed arms agreements.

The United States' main goal of negotiation was to make the Soviets realize it will protect Western Europe from the Soviet threat, Dean said.

Dr. Richard Bissell, director for research at the

United States Information Agency, also spoke of the increasing Western European disenchantment with U.S. foreign policy.

The longer nuclear weapons are available, the more communication links are developed between the superpowers, which decreases the chance of nuclear war, he said.

The importance of Soviet public awareness of foreign policy was discussed by James Critchlow, planning and research officer for the U.S. Board for International Broadcasting.

Both Radio Liberty and Voice of America are broadcast in the Soviet Union and other countries, he said. Together, they reach 25 percent of the adult Russian population each week.

Radio Liberty broadcasts mainly news, especially news the Soviet stations censor, he said.

Video teaching brings new dimension

By Bill Casari

The students in 242 Bancroft stare intently at television screens and ask questions via microphones which are propped on each desk.

V.T. Miller, faculty coordinator for closed-circuit television, said UNL equipped the classroom last semester with monitors, cameras, a directors' booth, microphones and lighting so the room could be used for interactive telecommunication.

Interactive telecommunication means students can communicate with an instructor who may be teaching class on another campus or even in another city, Miller said.

Miller said telecommunication extends classroom coverage of courses like engineering, nursing and home economics.

For example, both UNL and UNO offer Engineering 373. The professor instructs the class in Lincoln, but through the television system, the UNO classroom receives the signal.

Omaha students can see the Lincoln professor through a monitor and can ask questions through the microphones. Similarly, the professor has two monitors showing both the UNL and UNO classes. Both the professor and students at UNL will hear the UNO students' questions over a loudspeaker system.

Miller said the program requires more pre-planning than a normal course because of the media equipment. However, he said, the program helps eliminate duplication of programs and saves time.

Although Miller said he thinks telecommunication helps improve the quality of education, it does

not save money in the long run. Television cameramen and the telephone lines used to transfer the signal cost the university money, he said.

Research shows that on items such as tests and homework, students learn as much as in normal classrooms. But, students say they do not enjoy learning as much under the television system, Miller said.

Miller said he thought students sometimes have a negative reaction when the course starts, but their attitude usually improves over the semester. Most students prefer that the teacher be present all the time, he said.

The advantage of telecommunication teaching is that it uses the current number of staff to the fullest extent possible, Miller said.

Mike Cumming, an Engineering 373 student, said he thought the classroom was a big advantage because it enables more people to take the course.

But, Cumming said, using a microphone to ask questions might intimidate some students and prevent them from asking questions.

Joseph Panarelli, the UNL associate professor of engineering mechanics who teaches the course, said he thought the telecommunications teaching helps alleviate a shortage of teachers.

One alternative to the television teaching method would be to hire someone with broadcasting experience to teach the class, Panarelli said. However, he said, that would be a disadvantage because the instructor would not have enough time to devote to the class.

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