

## Nebraskans meet Congress to lobby agriculture, freeze

By Daryle Glynn Brown  
Staff Reporter

A group of 42 Nebraskans are meeting with their senators and congressmen in Washington today to lobby on peace and jobs.

Brian Coyne, statewide coordinator of the Nebraska Nuclear Weapons Freeze Campaign, said the group's goal is to discuss the agriculture crisis, military aid to Central America and the nuclear freeze. Coyne spoke at a send-off rally Thursday at the Wesley House, 640 N. 16th St.

The trip is part of a nationwide rally and lobby called "Citizens for Peace, Jobs and Justice." The main rally was Saturday, and an estimated 25,000 people attended.

"We'll send a message in support of those who take a strong stand on Central America," Coyne said. "We don't want to see more military hardware in Central America."

The nuclear freeze is one of the most important issues of the lobby, he said. The group will encourage legislators to "take an active role in the debate and support the freeze," Coyne said.

One method the lobbyists will

offer to the senators and congressmen is a "negotiators pause," a cessation of all nuclear test activity while the United States and Soviet Union discuss nuclear treaties, Coyne said.

Former Nebraska Gov. Frank Morrison said at the rally that government eventually must be responsive to the needs of the people. The nationwide rally would "bring government down to the reality of the world," he said. "That's the mission," Morrison said. "The future of this country, this planet, the entire human race rests on our bringing people back to the realm of reality."

## Reuter Report

### Senate committee approves aid for CIA-backed rebels

WASHINGTON — The Senate Appropriations Committee Sunday narrowly approved President Reagan's request for new aid for Nicaraguan rebels, which appears headed for defeat in Congress.

After several weeks of intense lobbying, Reagan only managed a 15-13 vote in the Republican-controlled committee. Some senators said they only approved the measure to move it to the floor of the Senate, which votes on the plan Tuesday.

By voice vote, a House appropriations subcommittee also agreed to send the request for \$14 million to the full committee without recommendation.

Moving to salvage some aid for the CIA-backed rebels, who are trying to overthrow the leftist Sandinist government, the president indicated a willingness to compromise.

"My feet aren't in concrete on this... yes, we're flexible in some of the details," he told a luncheon of regional editors and broadcasters.

Reagan said some congressmen had suggested extending the 60-day period during which, under the proposal, the aid would be used only for humanitarian purposes. "I would be pleased to sit down and discuss that," he said.

Several television networks and newspapers said the White House had conceded defeat and dropped its request for the military aid. Instead, they said, Reagan would push for it to be released for humanitarian support to the rebels.

White House spokesman Bill Hart said he could not confirm that but the president was willing to compromise.

### U.S. questions motive of ceasefire

WASHINGTON — A last-minute ceasefire offer from Nicaragua was made public Sunday, but the White House questioned the motives behind the proposal, saying it appeared to be aimed at affecting the U.S. political process.

At the same time, a meeting at which President Reagan had hoped to persuade reluctant congressmen to release fresh aid to "Contra" guerrillas fighting the leftist Managua government was put off until today.

A White House spokesman said a proposal by Nicaraguan leader Daniel Ortega Saavedra, who offered a ceasefire in return for Congress refraining from providing more Contra funding, was being analyzed. But the spokesman said the offer appeared "to be intended more to affect the U.S. political process than to move towards peace in Nicaragua," and White House officials said it was unlikely the president would accept Ortega's proposal.

Sen. John Kerry (D-Mass.), who yesterday met Ortega in Managua and returned with the proposal, was more positive.

"This is an offer which I believe is a substantive one, a real opportunity and it is not a quid pro quo or even specifically linked to Tuesday," the senator said, referring to the looming congressional vote on Contra funding. "It is linked to the larger issue of whether or not the U.S. is willing to really try and engage in a peace process."

### Neves dies after prolonged illness

SAO PAULO, Brazil — Brazil's President-elect Tancredo Neves died Sunday, a presidential spokesman said. The 75-year-old statesman died several hours after his doctors said his health had sunk to its lowest point since he fell ill on March 15 and that his heart was beginning to fail.

Neves was rushed to the hospital for abdominal surgery on the eve of his scheduled March 15 inauguration as Brazil's first civilian president in 21 years. He had had seven operations and had been unconscious for a week.

### Mobs continue to protest in India

NEW DELHI, India — Rioting continued in the states of Gujarat, Kashmir and Bihar Sunday as mobs protested affirmative-action programs and local issues.

Several people have been killed and hundreds injured in western and central India during two months of protests against new affirmative-action programs setting university and government jobs quotas for castes and classes defined as underprivileged in the constitution.

In the western Indian state of Gujarat, at least 19 people, including the police commissioner of Baroda and 12 other policemen, were injured when violent crowds threw bricks at them, the Press Trust of India reported. Hundreds of rioters in Baroda, one of Gujarat's biggest cities, also attacked cars, stores, a factory and a railroad track.

A police spokesman in Ahmedabad, also in Gujarat, said by phone that troops and police were patrolling Baroda and Ahmedabad, where about 16 people were killed last week in clashes triggered by student protests over affirmative action.

### Shultz asks Arabs to back talks

WASHINGTON — Secretary of State George Shultz Sunday appealed to moderate Arab states to back direct negotiations with Israel, promising the United States would help defend those who took risks for peace.

In a speech to a pro-Israel lobbying group, he said there was a new realism and a new commitment on the Middle East peace process by key leaders in the region. But he said movement towards peace could only come when no Arab states had any delusions about U.S. support for Israel weakening.

Shultz' speech to the American Israel Public Affairs Committee was described by an aide as an effort to get Arab support for Jordan's King Hussein to enter into direct negotiations with Israel.

It came as Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy probed the prospects for peace in a round of talks with officials in the region, following a recent flurry of diplomatic activity by Arab states.

"Today, for the first time in years, there are signs of a new realism and a new commitment on the part of key regional actors," Shultz said.

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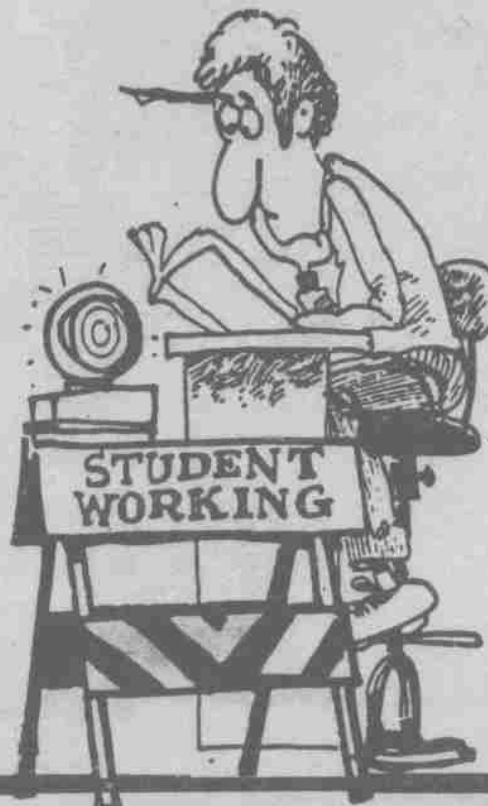
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