

# Beutler says state should back water control

By Linda Hartmann  
Staff Reporter

Issues of groundwater control should not put conservatives and liberals in the Legislature on opposing sides, state Sen. Chris Beutler of Lincoln said Tuesday.

"It's clear what the right thing to do is. You cannot pollute your groundwater," he said.

Beutler, speaking at a Nebraska Groundwater Foundation Symposium, said conservatives and liberals should

feel comfortable with government control of groundwater.

"There is no way of protecting the rights of competing public interests without government intervention," he said.

Beutler said debate about groundwater legislation will center on whether local or state government should handle regulation.

Beutler said more environmental and groundwater legislation will be introduced in the next legislative session than in the seven years he has been a senator. He said he thinks several of the bills will pass.

The state Department of Environmental Control has proposed groundwater legislation strategy to address six areas of contamination: chemical fuel storage tanks, agricultural chemicals, waste treatment and disposal areas, water wells and test holes, industrial facilities and spills or leaks along transportation areas. Beutler is a primary spokesman for legislation on groundwater control.

Recently a group of western Nebraskans that belongs to Save Nebraska Water petitioned to put a constitutional amendment about groundwater regulation on next year's ballot. Beutler

said vague working in the amendment could shift decisions on what constitutes groundwater contamination from the Legislature to the courts.

State Sen. Sandra Scofield of Chadron said she shares Beutler's concern about the amendment's working. She said the petition indicates that many people are impatient with how the Legislature has dealt with groundwater issues, Scofield said.

The petition could prompt legislators to work with issues more quickly if they think they have a better solution to groundwater problems, she said.

Scofield said the petition is a good

effort to make people more aware of the state's contamination problems.

Susan Seacrest, president of the Nebraska Groundwater Foundation, said that because the quality of Nebraska's groundwater affects everyone, the group is dedicated to educating all Nebraskans about the problem.

She said the foundation is trying to inform more high school and college students about groundwater issues because students represent a spectrum of backgrounds and economic standings.

"The sinister trends of groundwater contamination are something people will have to deal with," Seacrest said.

## ASUN encourages parents to call senators

STUDENTS from Page 1

Gunderson wrote a letter to Sen. Jacklyn Smith of Hastings, asking her to vote for an amendment to cut the university's budget by 2 percent instead of 3 percent. Gunderson also met with Smith briefly Wednesday to show student support for the amendment.

Smith, who voted for the amendment to reduce the university budget cuts by only 2 percent Tuesday, said Gunderson "helped" her decide to vote for the amendment.

"The students showed a good attitude towards the economic difficulties we're having in our district," she said. "Although I still had a problem with the amendment, I felt they gave me some good insights."

In addition to student efforts, university lobbyists also are working at the Capitol.

Walt Radcliff, a lobbyist for The Friends of Higher Education, said he thinks the university's budget cuts won't exceed 2 percent. However, he said, Kerrey could line-item veto the

reductions back up to 3 percent.

"Two percent is better than 3 percent," Radcliff said. "They're slowly allowing the university to bleed to death."

Besides direct lobbying, students are being encouraged to use ASUN's "telephone bank" in the Nebraska and East unions to call their parents and encourage them to call senators from their districts. The phone calls are free.

"About 75 percent of the senators have been called by the phone bank," Gunderson said. "We need to have all of them called."

## Individual cases fuel human rights discussion

WILL from Page 4

Former Soviet leader Yuri Andropov gave the Soviet Union two things: that law and a protege named Gorbachev.

Reagan, like most people, only more so, has a cinematic mind. He clarifies his thinking and animates his passions with reference to particular cases, identifiable individuals whose situations can be framed, focused and frozen in clearly imagined scenes. This is not a weakness, least of all one peculiar to actors. It is a common and useful habit of mind that can yield moral strength.

When human-rights questions are raised with Soviet officials, they put on elaborately rude displays of boredom, rolling their eyes, doodling, glancing at their expensive Western watches and finally saying with heavy weariness, "Can we not go on to serious matters?" This summit will be worth the considerable trouble if, as summit enthusiasts hope, Reagan and Gorbachev "get to know one another."

That is one reason why Reagan should raise with Gorbachev the Khodrovich case. As Reagan does this, he should see cinematically, in his mind's eye, the methodical breaking of Khodo-

rovich's ribs.

©1985, Washington Post Writers Group Will is a Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist and a contributing editor for Newsweek magazine.

## Shorts

Sarah Weddington, attorney, law professor and columnist will be the featured speaker at the fifth annual YWCA Tribute To Women luncheon at noon today in the Nebraska Union.

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There will be a meeting at 4 p.m. today in Burnett Hall 324 for students interested in internships in Washington, D.C., for summer 1986. Several students who worked in Washington this summer will talk about their experiences, and information will be available on placement possibilities and application procedures. For more information, contact Experiential Education, Teachers College 102.

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The Lincoln Chamber of Commerce, the city of Lincoln and the state of Nebraska are sponsoring a conference, "Financing Your Business Growth," Nov. 19 from 7:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The conference will be at the Nebraska Center for Continuing Education, 33rd and Holdrege streets. Registration is \$20 until Nov. 12 and \$25 after Nov. 12. For a reservation, call the Lincoln Chamber of Commerce at 476-7511.

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Clarence Pendleton, chairman of the U.S. Civil Rights Commission, will participate in a forum titled "Affirmative Action: Ensuring Equal Opportunity or Promoting Reverse Discrimination?" The forum will be Friday at 3 p.m. in Law College 112 on East Campus.

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