

Editorial

Kerrey's bluffs, policy changes threaten state

Gov. Bob Kerrey's inability to take and maintain a stance on state issues raises questions about his ability to lead Nebraska.

The most blatant example of Kerrey's questionable leadership occurred Friday.

When the Legislature refused to pass the income tax bill, Kerrey said he would use his line-item veto power to cut \$9 million more from the university's budget bringing NU's total state fund reduction to \$12.3 million.

Using the university as a pawn for political purposes was an expensive threat. If senators had called Kerrey's budget bluff, the university would be reduced to a glorified state college, and the state would have lost valuable resources.

True, Kerrey is a lame-duck governor since he declined to seek re-election. But no leader should resort to bluffs that threaten the well-being of the state.

Kerrey's leadership problems began long before Friday's power play.

During his 1982 campaign for governor, Kerrey said the university was not receiving the financial support it needed to be a "superior institution." Last month, however, he said the state's poor economy made it impossible to fund the university properly.

In the same campaign, Kerrey promised that if elected governor, he would tell Nebraska residents what the cost of an excellent university should be, in the belief that "Nebraskans are willing to support the development of a superior university."

Kerrey apparently has abandoned his belief. In the last month, Kerrey has pushed the NU Board of Regents to narrow the university's scope and cut \$5 million from the budget.

Another example of Kerrey's faltering leadership is LB662, a bill calling for school consolidation.

Traditionally, the state has left control of local education in local hands and allowed the state to support the university.

But with LB662, Kerrey wanted to take local education into state hands. At the same time, he advocated cutting the Legislature's obligation to the university.

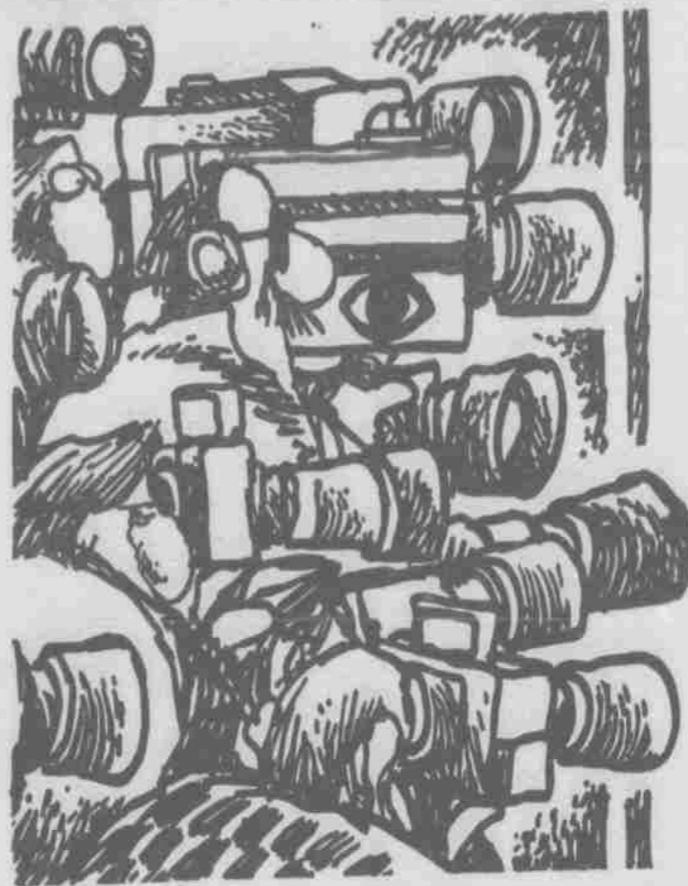
In April, Kerrey praised the merits of local Class I schools and said he didn't like the doubling of state aid to schools. Yet he signed the bill.

Another recent example of wavering leadership was Kerrey's refusal to expand the Legislature's special session to include an income tax increase unless senators passed the bill first.

Yet only hours later, Kerrey expanded the call to include income tax.

Although Kerrey's term officially ends in January 1987, the state appears to be without a leader now.

State legislators and Nebraskans must speak for their needs and the future of the state until an effective state leader is elected.



CHARLES, IF YOU WANT MORE ATTENTION FROM THE PRESS... JUST SAY SO.

Senate spending suicidal Committee pads defense budget despite deficit

Congress has a hard time getting anything done these days, but when it does get around to appropriating funds, one would think it would be stingy, considering the deficit.

But the Senate Appropriations Committee must have been in a generous mood when it started adding a few knicks and knacks onto the defense spending bill awaiting Senate passage.

"mariner fund" would provide \$862 billion for the Navy. Commercial ships would be built, then leased to private companies.

The only problem, according to a Goldwater aide, is that there is already excess shipping capacity and the ships would have to be leased at subsidized rates or left idle, the Journal reported.

The extra ammunition for the army, \$400 billion worth, might be too much for the Army to accommodate in addition to the regular request, said aides to the Senate Armed Services panel.

The whole thing has a nightmarish quality. Spending more now is somewhat suicidal.

The deficit is stacking up debts for future generations, and it is making the dollar strong, which is good and bad. It has made our products expensive to other countries. But it has helped keep inflation down, living standards up and the economy expanding.

However, the deficit is borrowing time as well as money, and it cannot be allowed to grow at its current pace.

Good luck to Goldwater. Budget-cutting must be applied across the board, defense not excepted. And if Congress and President Reagan are determined to spend more on defense, they had better raise taxes to do it. We've borrowed our limit.

On birth control

It's ironic that those who kick and scream about abortion are often the same ones who kick and scream about sex education in schools.

If junior and senior high school children are made aware of the facts about sex and birth control, they are more likely to use birth control — and less likely to choose abortion.

I don't buy the argument that sex education leads to a decay of morals. Parents who neglect to teach their children their sexual values and the

importance of responsibility are to blame. No one else.

Abstinence is a good answer, but not many kids take it seriously. Sex in our society has become largely acceptable before marriage. If abortions are to be avoided, then from an early age children must know about birth control.

About 125 people attended an Omaha School District meeting about possible expansion of sex education last week. Most opposed it, saying sex education should be left to family and church, where values also can be taught, the Omaha World-Herald reported.

That's a noble idea, but one that has not seen fruition. Junior and senior high school boys are responsible for 1.1 million pregnancies in this country each year, Psychology Today reports. At least 6 million teen-agers are sexually active by age 15. This does not speak well of the nation's sex education programs, nor of sex education in churches and homes.

Parents are most responsible for the values of their children. By the time children are in junior high, they usually have a strong idea of right and wrong. They can deal with information about sex responsibly. If they don't hear it in school, they'll get it on TV or from their friends. And then it won't be delivered responsibly.

Our children must be armed with complete sex education in public schools to supplement home and church learning. They should learn about the functions of sex, the importance of responsibility and love in relationships and how to avoid pregnancy, should they choose to have sex. That information would help ensure that all children are wanted and will have good, loving homes. It also will decrease abortions used to escape responsibility.

Welsch is a UNL senior English and journalism major and a Daily Nebraskan copy desk chief.



Chris Welsch

The committee added a "mariner fund" for the construction of a few commercial ships that could be used in wartime, a little extra ammo for the Army, some general funding for National Guardsmen and some other stuff. The funny thing is the Defense Department did not request any of those things, which added \$2 billion to the defense expenditure.

I never thought I'd say anything nice about Barry Goldwater, R-Ariz., but he's leading the drive to delete the unneeded extras. Goldwater's aides say that among other problems, there are procedural difficulties in appropriating funds for items Congress didn't authorize when the overall defense budget was approved, The Wall Street Journal reports.

The Senate committee's measure appropriates \$288 billion, \$12 billion more than the House's defense bill. Some of those billions were tossed in to be used in bargaining with the House in hopes of achieving a higher defense appropriation.

But, the Journal reports, some of the items are more than bargaining chips — among them the items I listed. The

Reagan's 'expectation exercise'

It's a little bit like getting a prescription for a crash fitness program. Here we are, just a day away from the summit, and the government wants Americans to shape up their attitudes for the big meeting. They are trying to convince us to lower our expectations.



Expectations, it appears, are the political blood pressure of the nation. The sober pronouncements coming out

of Washington are all designed to keep the pressure down. Schultz, McFarlane and the rest of the Geneva Health Brigade are afraid that they'll return empty-handed and send us all into a state of shock.

In toning our attitudes for the summit, one of these leaders has stolidly pronounced that he feels "hopeful but not optimistic" about any arms agreement. Another has warned that the two leaders may not even be able to sign a joint communique. Even the normally ebullient, wood-chopping, muscle-flexing president seems subdued about the possibilities for summitry.

It doesn't take too much energy to abide by the presidential fitness program for summit watchers. There are at least three easy ways to lower the

expectations of the average American in no more than a few minutes a day.

The first exercise is called Recycling. What you have to do is set your stationary recycle at 20 to 25 mph and listen to the old tapes of the president. Hear him as he confuses one missile with another, mixes the John Birch Society writings with those of Lenin and tells the British press that there is no word for "freedom" in Russian.

Next comes Transcontinental Meditating. To perform this exercise, you sit on the floor with your legs crossed, fingers raised and eyes glued on the book published this week under the byline of Mikhail Gorbachev. You now concentrate on any of the somnolent

Please see GOODMAN on 5

The Daily Nebraskan

34 Nebraska Union
1400 R St., Lincoln, Neb. 68588-0448

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| EDITOR | Vicki Ruhga, 472-1766 |
| NEWS EDITOR | Ad Hudler |
| CAMPUS EDITOR | Suzanne Teten |
| ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR | Kathleen Green |
| EDITORIAL PAGE EDITOR | Jonathan Taylor |
| WIRE EDITOR | Michela Thuman |
| COPY DESK CHIEFS | Lauri Hopple |
| | Chris Welsch |
| | Bob Asmussen |
| SPORTS EDITOR | Bill Allen |
| ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR | Barb Branda |
| WEATHER EDITOR | David Creamer |
| PHOTO CHIEF | Gene Gentrup |
| NIGHT NEWS EDITOR | Kurt Eberhardt |
| ART DIRECTOR | Phil Tsai |
| ASSISTANT ART DIRECTOR | Daniel Shattil |
| GENERAL MANAGER | Katherine Policky |
| PRODUCTION MANAGER | Barb Branda |
| ASSISTANT | Sandi Stueve |
| PRODUCTION MANAGER | Mary Hupf |
| ADVERTISING MANAGER | Brian Hoglund |
| ASSISTANT | |
| ADVERTISING MANAGER | |
| CIRCULATION MANAGER | |
| PUBLICATIONS BOARD | |
| CHAIRPERSON | Joe Thomsen |
| PROFESSIONAL ADVISER | Don Walton, 473-7301 |

The Daily Nebraskan (USPS 144-080) is published by the UNL Publications Board Monday through Friday in the fall and spring semesters and Tuesdays and Fridays in the summer sessions, except during vacations.

Readers are encouraged to submit story ideas and comments to the Daily Nebraskan by phoning 472-1763 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. The public also has access to the Publications Board. For information, contact Joe Thomsen.

Subscription price is \$35 for one year. Postmaster: Send address changes to the Daily Nebraskan, Nebraska Union 34, 1400 R St., Lincoln, Neb. 68588-0448. Second-class postage paid at Lincoln, NE 68510.

ALL MATERIAL COPYRIGHT 1985 DAILY NEBRASKAN