New colorful license plate doesn't rekindle debate of '83

By Kent Endacott Staff Reporter

on white Nebraska license plates to a new, multi-colored plate scheduled for January 1987 should be smooth and non-controversial, state Department of Motor Vehicles officials say.

Lynne Haas, public information officer at the motor vehicles department, said an early start on the new plates will help avoid another "great license plate debate," which occupied the Legislature for three months in 1983. Production on the 2.9 million plates will begin in February 1986.

This year the department's 1985-86 budget submitted to the Legislature during the 1985 session included appropriations for the new 1987 license plate. Normally the license plates are not included in the budget until one year before the plates are produced. But the department decided to ask for plate appropriations to avoid problems that it had in 1984, said Jeff Elliott, deputy director of the department.

In 1984, the Legislature's debate caused a production delay. The delay caused some people to have to get temporary license plate renewal stickers

day season every night by glancing out

With the help of maintenance personnel, members of the complex social

committee decorated the courtyard's

Bob Shambora, committee member,

said the committee came up with the

Shambora said the money for the pro-

fund, which was "about \$150." Mainte- at 5:30 p.m.

trees with Christmas lights.

idea.

residence complex can enjoy the holi- lights, he said.

From Staff Reports

number on their license plate as their and submitted for bids.

previous plates.

State Sen. Shirley Marsh said since \$1 charge The switch from the generic, blue- the Legislature couldn't resolve the license plate issue in 1984, the motor vehicles department took the responsibility. They did so by not taking action, she said.

No agreement

The Legislature's inaction on the more elaborate plates, Elliott said. license plate issue during the 1985 session could have been partly because it funded entirely through an appropriahad more important issues to deal with, Marsh said,

gan should be printed on the new money will go to repay the highway plates. In the end, no agreement could department's trust fund." be reached on a specific slogan or design, resulting in the generic plates.

Nevertheless, the Legislature passed a bill that requires Nebraska to issue new license plates every three years. The law also requires that the color of the plates be changed each time new license plates are issued.

black, gold and white and similar to the state Economic Development Development, Haas said. Department's "Discover Nebraska" bumper sticker.

since not all the plates were ready. Vehicle Department Director Holly associate it with the good life." They also were unable to get the same Jensen from three designs drawn up

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lations. Interviews must be completed

before graduation. Interviews will be in

the Nebraska Union today at 10:30 a.m.;

Wednesday at noon; Thursday at 3 p.m.;

Holiday lights in HSS courtyard

Residents in Harper-Schramm-Smith ladders and equipment to put up the

their windows to the courtyard below. Interviews required

ject came out of the social committee and in the Nebraska East Union Friday

The new plates will cost 90 cents, about 6 cents more per plate than the generic plates and will be produced by inmates at the Nebraska State Penitentiary.

No money from the state's general budget will be used to produce the

"The new license plates will be tion from the highway department," he said. "Under law, there is a \$1 charge In 1983, senators debated what slo- on every new plate purchased. This

Haas said the new plates will force everyone to register their vehicles, producing revenue for the state.

"The new plates will help the law enforcement officers to spot unregistered vehicles," she said.

The plate design that represents a sunset, already has proven to be very The new license plates will be red, popular in a tourism campaign launched by the state Department of Economic

"It's looked on by a lot of people as the signature of the state," she said. The new design was chosen by Motor "It's showing up everywhere. People

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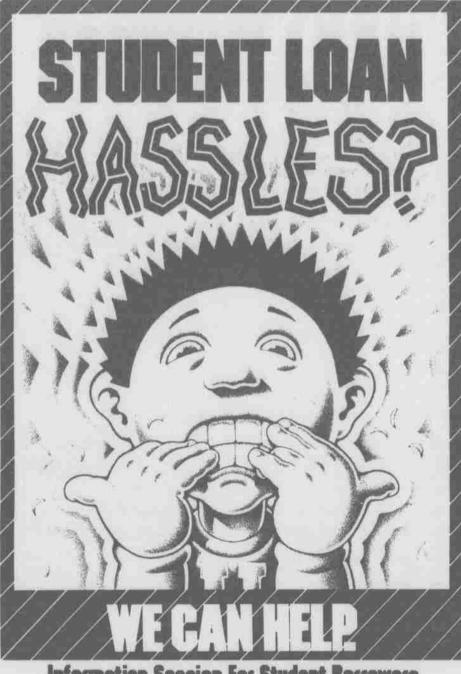
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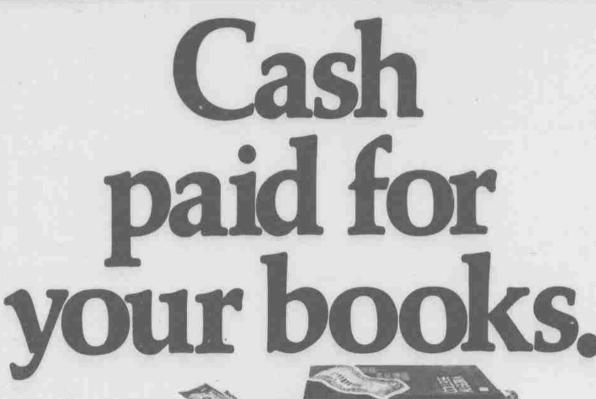
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