

Weather: Looks like rain. Maybe anyway. There's a 30 percent chance of rain. That could even turn to snow. (But only if it gets a little colder). It's supposed to get up to 48 today and the low should be around 40. It might be time to break out that winter sweater. Have a nice weekend.

Criner hopes Cyclones can blow past NU

Sports, Page 5

'Man of La Mancha' at Kimball Saturday

Arts & Entertainment, Page 6

Daily
Nebraskan

November 7, 1986

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

No.86 Vol.54

21st century will be aging society

Expert: Health care to change

By Linda Renken
Staff Reporter

Three major problems face today's society that need immediate attention in order for the future generation to remain financially stable, a national insurance official said.

A growing demand for public and private retirement benefits, the increasing cost of health care and the mushrooming federal deficit are problems that need action, said Richard Schweiker, president of the American Council of Life Insurance. Schweiker spoke as part of the eighth annual Faulkner series Wednesday morning. He is a former U.S. senator and Secretary of Health and Human Resources.

These problems, if not faced now, will become increasingly worse in the future, he said. Looking into the future, he said, can be a frightening experience because there always is the chance that what the future holds is not encouraging.

The 21st century, he said, will consist of an aging society. Today, more than 28 million Americans are 65 years old or older. This number is expected to grow to 35 million by the year 2000 and 65 million by the year 2030. In 2010, one in five Americans are expected to be 65 years old or older as compared to one in 10 today.

The ramifications of this process are enormous, Schweiker said. To the elderly population, this means one-fourth of their lives will be spent in retirement. By the year 2000, the average woman at age 65 will have 25 percent of her life ahead of her. The average man will have

20 percent of his life ahead of him.

The increased longevity lends itself to financial problems not thought of before, he said. Social Security, designed to be a supplemental income program, actually provides half of the yearly income for two-thirds of elderly households. As the elderly population increases, the number of Social Security recipients also increase. The problem is that the number of workers are decreasing. In 1950, there were 16 workers for every social security recipient. Today there are 3.4 workers for every recipient. By the year 2000, this is expected to drop to 1.5 workers for every recipient.

The social security program probably won't be able to keep up with the increasing elderly population, he said. As a result, changes in the program need to be made, none of which will be popular or painless.

One solution would be to raise taxes, he said. Others include lowering worker benefits or raising the eligibility age for Social Security, he said.

Although Social Security is not the only source of income for retirees, the problem remains that not everyone has private pensions, he said. Women and minorities frequently don't have a pension plan because they work only part-time or are in the labor force intermittently. Schweiker said that a mobile pension plan needs to be adopted to provide a financial base for women and minorities.

As the elderly population continues to increase, health-care benefits and costs also are likely to increase, he said. Health care in the aging society

creates an enormous challenge, he said.

The key to success in health care is to encourage efficiency rather than waste, he said. The health system has been programmed so that it doesn't get paid unless people are sick, he said. The system must be geared to keeping a person well rather than sick, he said. By providing incentives to do this, the amount of money spent on health care will then decrease, he said.

However, health care is only one small portion of the federal deficit that needs to be decreased, he said. In 1960 the federal budget was less than \$100 billion. Today, the figure is \$1 trillion, he said. From 1960 to 1986 there has been a 10-fold increase in the federal deficit. The interest paid on that debt is more than the federal budget was in 1961, he said. This is a critical problem for the United States, he said, because over the past four years the federal deficit has averaged \$200 billion yearly, he said.

To begin correcting the problem, the government must further cut into federal spending and growth that has built up over the years. The government also must increase tax revenues by increasing taxes or paying more of the bills from the receipts.

"These are not popular ideas," he said, "because it means that we must spend less on ourselves. But we must face the choice of suffering that pain or inflicting possibly greater pain on the next generation." None of the solutions will be painless, he said, and each will require sacrifices.



Richard Wright/Daily Nebraskan

Former U.S. secretary of Health and Human Services Richard Schweiker spoke at the eighth annual E.J. Faulkner lecture series Wednesday.

Rec board found free of violation

By Jody Beem
Staff Reporter

The ASUN Judicial Board Thursday night found the Campus Recreation Student Advisory Board not guilty of violating ASUN's non-discrimination clause because the recreation board was not found to be a recognized student organization.

Doug Weems, ASUN Arts and Sciences senator, brought a petition before the Judicial Board that said the recreation board discriminated when it had ASUN appoint three of its members, one from a residence hall, one from off campus and one from a fraternity or sorority.

Weems said that the recreation board fell under ASUN jurisdiction because ASUN appoints three members of the nine-member board and because the board submitted a constitution for review. He said that he thought that any organization that submitted a constitution is consi-

See JUDICIAL on 3

NOW president speaks at events

By Jeanne Bourne
Night News Editor

When the United States cuts funding for international family-planning research, "it is cutting of a source of survival" for many people in the Third World, said Eleanor Smeal, president of the National Organization for Women Thursday.

The United States provided two-thirds of the family-planning research for the entire world up until last year, she said at the annual YWCA Tribute to Women luncheon at the Cornhusker Hotel.

The funding was cut last year "in the name of life," she said, because less than one percent of the money might have gone to abortion services.

Smeal said she does not think family planning is a controversial issue, but a small minority is making it an issue. She linked family planning to starvation in Third-World countries.

In 1985, she said, 9 million people starved to death and 2 billion still have too little to eat. The average age of those who starved to death was four years, she said. She asked, what is the purpose of "birth only to die" after a few years of life?

Smeal said the countries with the highest starvation rates are the countries that are populating at the fastest rates. The sub-Saharan region of Africa will double its population in 16 to 17 years, she said.

"We should not be cutting back on family-planning research but expanding on it," Smeal said.

What we do in the United States affects the whole world, she said. If the United States advances in this area, the rest of the world will follow, Smeal said.

About 800 people attended the sixth annual luncheon. The YWCA presented awards to outstanding women from the Lincoln area. Recipients of the 1986 Tribute awards were Margrethe Alschwede, Ann Bleed, Alice Dittman, Pearl Goldenstein, Alice Bigpond Roach, Ina May Rouse and Nancy Stara.

Smeal will speak on "The Status of the Women's Movement Today" at the Nebraska Wesleyan Forum at 10 a.m. today in the McDonald Theatre, Elder Memorial Speech and Theatre Center, 51st and Huntington streets.

The forum is open to the public at no cost. It will be broadcast at noon Monday on KIOS 91.5 FM and at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday on KUCV/FM 91.



Linda Story/Daily Nebraskan

Smeal