



Andrea Hoy/Daily Nebraskan

**Welcome home**

Tom Snoberger, Commander of the 58-member civil engineering squad that went to Honduras, hugs his wife, Terry, on his return to Nebraska Sunday.

**Mayor wants global niche**

LUEDTKE from Page 7

Luedtke said he thought that redevelopment is important because downtown Lincoln's retail market is deteriorating.

"Ten years ago, 30 percent of the (Lincoln) market was in downtown Lincoln and has already dropped down to 10 percent," he said.

One "political risk" Luedtke said he took during his term was the proposed destruction of Block 35. The project involves replacing businesses on the block bounded by 10th, 11th, P and Q streets for the Lied Center for Performing Arts and other businesses.

Currently, "there's been no actual move on the part of the city to condemn (the property), and there won't be until every effort is made to be fair and equitable with them (Block 35 owners)," he said.

Luedtke said that 70 percent of the owners would like to sell, and the Block 35 businesses will have top priority to relocate into the Haymarket and other areas by November 1988.

Luedtke also hopes to make Lincoln into a regional distribution center. Because of Lincoln's unique geographical location, he said, "We are a natural for distributing goods and resources to Europe and Asia."

Luedtke said he would like to find Lincoln's "global niche" by forming partnerships with foreign countries and cities to distribute products made or brought here. Luedtke said that he has the experience and background to make these connections and continue Lincoln's prosperity.

Luedtke, 63, is an attorney and an experienced politician. He has been a state senator and lieutenant governor. Luedtke also has had positions in the National League of Cities, human development committees and the Bipartisan Task Force 88.

Since he took office in 1983, he has divided Lincoln's revenue sources into three general areas: property taxes, which are 15 percent lower since he took office; city sales taxes; and user fees or other receipts.

One form of city revenue involves a project that Luedtke considers one of his "agonizing decisions," the Lincoln landfill. The city receives \$8 a ton for commercial haulers, which is expected to generate from \$1.53 to \$2.2 million annually.

Yet Luedtke is researching alternative ways to get rid of garbage in Lincoln.

"We can't continue to bury our garbage in the land... and we won't," Luedtke said.

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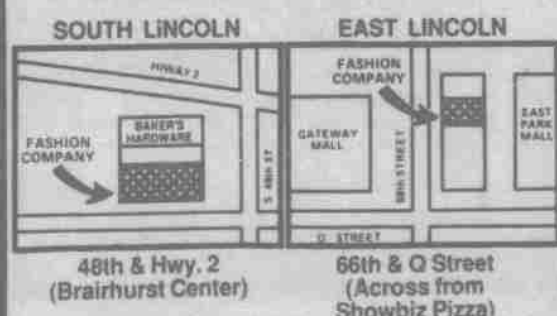
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