

Facing expected revenue shortfalls

Committee recommends override of one veto

By Victoria Ayotte
Senior Reporter

Facing millions in revenue shortfalls, the Legislature's Appropriations Committee on Thursday voted to recommend that only one of Gov. Kay Orr's budget vetoes be overridden.



The committee recommended that senators override Orr's veto of \$467,000 for the Department of Aging.

On Wednesday, Orr handed down about \$6 million in vetoes to LB1031, the state's deficit appropriations bill. Orr said the state could not finance the vetoed items and still keep the budget balanced.

The state is required to keep a reserve fund in addition to balancing the budget. The reserve fund must contain 3 percent of the state's total expenditures.

Senators still must vote on some appropriations bills that are on final reading, the last stage of the legislative process before bills are killed or forwarded to the governor.

If Orr were to sign the bills on final reading and the ones she has on her desk, the state would face expected revenue shortfalls of \$2.6 million in 1990-91 and \$13 million by the end of 1992-93.

If all vetoes to LB1031 were overridden, the state would face expected shortfalls of \$8.6 million in 1990-91

and \$27 million by 1992-93.

To override a veto, 30 votes are needed. The Appropriations Committee had the option of recommending nothing to the Legislature, recommending no overrides, recommending specific items for override, or recommending that all the vetoes be overridden.

Committee Chairman Sen. Jerome Warner of Waverly said a constitutional amendment would be needed to change the requirement of a balanced budget and 3 percent reserve fund.

"I guess nobody goes to jail if we go believe that," Warner said, but overrides would cause problems.

Sen. Scott Moore of Seward moved to recommend no overrides. Committee members then deliberated whether a recommendation to override specific items would be seen as the committee "getting theirs" and would make other senators more likely to propose overrides for projects they think are important.

Sen. Brad Ashford of Omaha said he thinks the Department of Aging is in a crisis situation and the committee should recommend overriding Orr's \$467,000 veto for the Community Aging Services Act.

The crisis will be caused by the effects of the higher minimum wage, he said.

Sen. Lorraine Langford of Kearney said recommending specific selective items to be overridden gives senators the message that the "floodgate is open."

"I don't think we should do it as a committee," she said.

Governor Orr's vetoes of deficit appropriations

University	Fiscal year '90-'91
UNL-greenhouse renovation	1,000,000
UNMC-Family practice residency-partial	294,938
Chinch bug specialist (LB1031)-partial	24,000
Poultry veterinarian (LB1143)-partial	37,163
Potato specialist (LB899)-partial	25,000

John Bruce/Daily Nebraskan

Source: Office of the Governor.

Moore said, "The body as a whole is overspent" and possibly already in violation of the 3 percent reserve requirement. When "there's no money, you stop writing checks," he said.

"The bottom line... is we don't have any more money," Sen. Gary Hannibal of Omaha said.

Sen. Sandra Scofield of Chadron said she doesn't think it would matter very much if senators proposed one item for override because the override bill is "going to roll anyway."

Ashford also said he thinks that when there is an "absolute emer-

gency," such as in the aging program, the committee has the responsibility to recommend overrides.

Senators then passed an amendment to Moore's motion to recommend that only the aging program vetoes be overridden.

Sen. Roger Wehrbein of Plattsmouth said the committee probably will not be seen as "looking for turf" because only one item was recommended for override.

The Legislature is expected to attempt veto overrides Monday, the last day of the session.

Talks

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talk on Eastern Europe and recent changes there before the end of April, Williams said.

A core group of about 10 faculty members has been meeting weekly since early in the semester

to work on the project, he said. Students were invited to join about March 1, he said.

Many of the faculty members also are involved in ADAPT (Accenting the Development of Abstract Processes of Thought), a program consisting of three classes in physics, anthropology and English. The program focuses on de-

veloping more rational thinking among freshmen.

Faculty members involved in the ADAPT program are interested in more than just classroom teaching and standard research, he said.

Although he is not aware of any students representing fraternities and sororities in the core group, Williams said, he would like to

expand the program to include them in the discussions.

A student assistant in the group will survey students to determine what issues interest them, he said.

Williams said a 1:30 p.m. Monday meeting in the dining hall at Selleck Residence Hall is open to all students and faculty members.

Senator plans fight for vetoed bill

By Victoria Ayotte
Senior Reporter

State Sen. Rod Johnson of Sutton on Thursday said he plans to fight Gov. Kay Orr's veto of his bill, which would provide for a comprehensive waste reduction and recycling plan in Nebraska.

LB163 also would provide for grants to local governments for recycling, solid waste disposal and reduction and licensing of landfills not meeting federal standards.

"Proper solid waste disposal and recycling may not be high priorities this year for Gov. Orr -- but I assure you that they are of the highest priority for me and for hundreds of Nebraska communities," Johnson said in a press release.

Although the governor said the bill has problems, her concerns are "no reason for the Legislature to ignore the makings of a state-



wide environmental crisis."

The crisis could come from hundreds of unlicensed landfills possibly leaking contaminants, he said. Those landfills could be closed if they don't meet upcoming "stringent" federal landfill requirements, Johnson said.

"The governor's rationale for vetoing LB163 misses the point entirely," he said.

Orr said the bill does not deal with past problems, such as the "state's most pressing solid waste issue," which "involves correcting past mistakes in the siting and closure of dumps."

But correcting past problems was not the bill's purpose, Johnson said.

Future alternative solid waste disposal solutions are needed to stop the problem, he said.

"The governor's logic has the cart in front of the horse," he said.

The governor also objected to the bill's \$1 tax on tires and a fee for businesses. Johnson said those were necessary to finance the bill's provisions.

UNL plans first pluralism conference

By Matt Herek
Staff Reporter

One of the highlights of the nation's first conference on "systematic pluralism" will be a session on the ethics of pluralistic legal interpretation, according to a UNL official.

James Ford, associate professor of English who is organizing the University of Nebraska-Lincoln conference, said the session will center on whether the law should be interpreted by its language or its intent, and if ethics control the meaning of law, he said.

The four speakers conducting the session

also will talk about who controls the meaning of law.

Ford said pluralists, unlike other philosophers, think one philosophy is not enough to interpret things in the world. As a result, they incorporate many philosophies into one school of thought, he said.

"Systematic Pluralism: An Interdisciplinary Conference," will include experts in psychology, philosophy, sociology, literature, ethics, legal ethics, criticism and metaphor.

The conference will be April 12-14 at the Nebraska Center for Continuing Education. All events are free and open to the public.

Dorrie Laster, co-chairperson of the Multi-Cultural Legal Society, said the petition drive comes at a good time because two law professors are going on leave and one professor will retire this year. Those openings provide opportunities to bring in minority and women faculty members, she said.

But Perlman said there is no reason to replace the professors on leave because they will be back. And because the hiring cycle is over, the retiring professor will not be replaced for a while, he said.

Rally

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voy Perlman, dean of the College of Law. A copy will be sent to Martin Massengale, UNL chancellor and NU interim president.

Jones said the protest is part of a national effort organized at the University of California at Berkeley. Jones said that although students at other colleges and universities boycotted and disrupted classes in protest, she thinks such tactics aren't appropriate.

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