

Daily Nebraskan

April 10, 1990

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Vol. 89 No. 120

Tuesday

WEATHER

Tuesday, partly cloudy, breezy and cool, 40 percent chance of showers, high in the mid- to upper-40s, north wind 20-30 miles per hour. Tuesday night, low in the low to mid-30s. Wednesday, partly cloudy, high in the mid- to upper-40s.

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State senators place beefed-up commission on November ballot

By Emily Rosenbaum
Senior Reporter

State senators Monday gave Nebraska voters the power to determine the course of higher education governance.

On the last day of the 60-day legislative session, senators voted 35-12 to place LB1141, which proposes a constitutional amendment to create a more powerful Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education, on the November ballot.

LB1141 originally was intended as the implementation legislation for LR239CA, another proposed constitutional amendment to provide for changes in higher education governance. LR239CA was passed over Monday.

On Wednesday, Sen. Jerome Warner of Waverly successfully stripped LB1141 of its original intent and added provisions to grant the coordinating commission budget authority and the power to coordinate programs and academic ac-

tivities.

The current commission serves only as an advisory board.

Under LB1141, the structure of the NU Board of Regents and the Nebraska State College Board of Trustees would stay the same, but the boards' duties would be reduced to day-to-day management of the institutions.

The original higher education legislation, LR239CA, would have replaced the current NU Board of Regents and the State College Board of Trustees with an overall governing board and institutional boards of trustees.

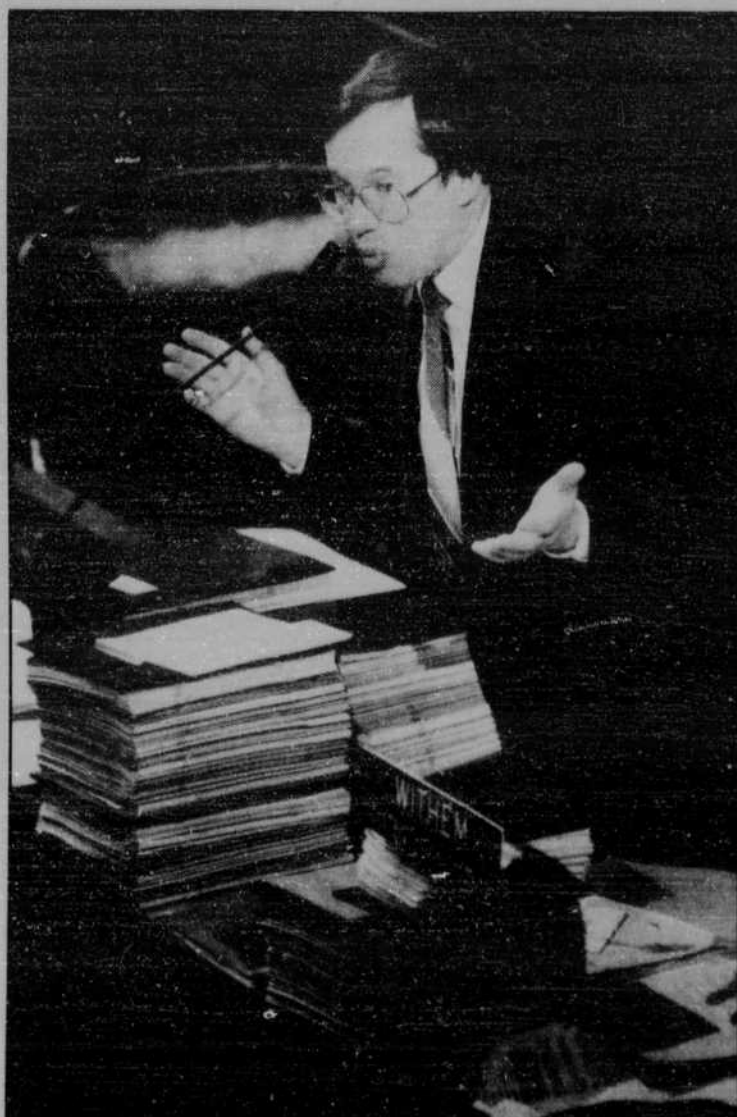
The Legislature passed over LR239CA Monday at the request of Sen. Ron Withem of Papillion, the resolution's sponsor.

Withem said his proposed constitutional amendment seemed to be "causing confusion" with the amended LB1141.

He said that although he favors his original proposal "we should focus our efforts on 1141."

The proposed coordinating commission would be made up of 11 members to be appointed by the governor and approved by the Legislature. Six members would be chosen from districts of about

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David Hansen/Daily Nebraskan

State Sen. Ron Withem of Papillion, addresses the Legislature on Monday afternoon during the last day of the 60-day session.

Senators reject governor's veto of recycling bill

By Victoria Ayotte
Senior Reporter

State Sen. Rod Johnson of Sutton on Monday used some strong language in urging Nebraska legislators to override the governor's veto of the recycling bill he sponsored.

Johnson said Gov. Kay Orr's veto message on LB163, to provide a comprehensive plan and grants to reduce solid waste, probably did not serve any purpose "other than to piss us off."

Johnson later said that may have been a poor choice of words, but he felt strongly that Orr had missed the point when she objected to LB163.

Orr had said the bill failed to build on the Legislature's past work on the solid waste issue.

"That's what the purpose of this bill has been from the beginning," Johnson said.

The Environmental Protection Agency will change regulations and force hundreds of unlicensed landfills in Nebraska to close if the Legislature does not act, he said.

"Why wait until the train hits you before getting off the tracks," he said.

Johnson said LB163 would "get us moving down the road" and off the tracks with its provision for a \$1 tax on tires, fee for businesses and \$500,000 from the state treasury. That money will be used to create a plan for waste reduction and grants to local governments to help them license their landfills.

"I guess I'm just asking you to have the guts to vote for the bill," he said.

Sen. Elroy Hefner of Coleridge opposed the override, saying the fee to businesses is "unfair," and the bill singles out one part of the problem, tires, to tax.

"This problem is too important to ignore," Sen. Don Wesely of Lincoln responded.

"To avoid doing something this year, to me, just delays the inevitable," Johnson said. Senators overrode the veto 31-16.

State budget nearly balanced as session ends

By Victoria Ayotte
Senior Reporter

State senators adjourned for the year Monday night after overriding millions in gubernatorial vetoes and leaving the state just about at the legal level for a balanced budget.

The state must have a 3 percent reserve over a balanced budget and came within a half million of reaching that point Monday night.

Sen. Jerome Warner of Waverly gave senators a running total of

how much was left to override and still maintain the legal 3 percent requirement.

The Legislature has an "obligation" to follow through on this, he said, and urged senators to give "careful thought" in voting to override bills.

Senators defeated a motion to reinstate \$190,000 for development of a public events center and headquarters building at the University of Nebraska Agricultural Research and Development Center at Mead.

Senators approved a \$269,000 override of funds for National Guard tuition credits.

The budget realities came home as senators rejected most veto override attempts on the main deficit appropriations bill, LB1031.

The Legislature defeated an override attempt on the governor's veto of \$24,000 for a chinch bug specialist at the University of Nebraska.

Sen. Spence Morrissey of Tecumseh supported the override, saying southeast Nebraska is "infested" with the bugs.

"There are a lot of little buggers out there running around," he said.

Warner said the Legislature has recognized in part the seriousness of the chinch bug issue and private funds or reallocation within the university could make up for the partial veto.

Senators also defeated an override attempt of Phase II of the LB247 study committee, which would look at role and mission of the universities and state colleges.

Spring Break protesters arrested for trespassing at nuclear test site

By Matt Herak
Staff Reporter

Ten Lincolniters and University of Nebraska-Lincoln students went to Nevada for Spring Break -- expecting to get arrested.

Nell Eckersley, a sophomore social sciences major, said they were protesting nuclear weapons testing, ecological damage from the tests, and that land for a test site in southern Nevada was taken away from the Shoshone Indians.

The protesters were arrested for trespassing March 31, along with about 800 others at the Nevada Test Site, she said.

Eckersley said she went to the protest, sponsored by the anti-nuclear group American Peace Test, so the U.S. government would hear that she and thousands of other protesters think the test site should not exist.

Eckersley said the land she was arrested on belongs to the Shoshone Indians. It was placed under government supervision without permission from the Shoshones, she said, who have not received reparations for it.

Tyler Divis of Lincoln said that when he

was arrested he was placed in a holding cell until buses arrived to take him on a 60-mile trip to Beatty, Nev., where he was given a ticket for trespassing and released.

Eckersley said she thinks her arrest will not catch up with her in the future unless she tries to become a U.S. citizen. Eckersley said she currently is a British citizen.

The citizens of the area around the test site have mixed feelings about the annual Peace Test, she said.

Some people thanked the protesters for trying to make their homes and the world safe from nuclear weapons, she said, while others think they are just hippies causing trouble and not solving any problems.

Divis said that while they were in Nevada, some of the protesters from Lincoln helped set up and run a community center. They posted the activities and events that went on, coordinated rides and consolidated information about what other groups were doing around the country.

Protesters also participated in workshops and demonstrations, Divis said.

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Selling T-shirts in Nebraska Union banned for religious bias

By Todd Neeley
Staff Reporter

UNL's Affirmative Action compliance officer Monday decided that Students for Choice could not give away or sell a T-shirt because it contains what he considered a religiously biased statement.

Bradley Munn said in a press release that "if pamphlets were being passed out this would be tolerated, but displaying the shirt and vending it on University of Nebraska-Lincoln property can be seen as degrading and humiliating to many Roman Catholics and others."

The shirts about "The Incredible Shrinking Woman's Right to Choose" include the statement "rated PG, papal guidance is suggested." If that statement were removed, Munn said, he would not oppose sales.

He said the issue at hand is not whether a group is for or against abortion, but that students with Catholic backgrounds or any other religion would be offended.

"It's difficult to draw the line," Munn said. "No one would disagree that if the shirts read, 'Kill all Jews, assassinate all gays or rape all women,' that they should be removed and not sold on our campus."

He said stores in the union also would not be permitted to sell T-shirts that said something "degrading to the pope."

Munn said it wouldn't be fair to allow students to do one thing "in a student-owned-and-operated building" and not allow others to do the same.

Munn said the group wasn't asked to stop selling all its shirts, "only from displaying and selling this one."

He said that if the group were to sell the shirt in any place other than approved union booth, it would be less likely to be banned.

Munn said he will "convene with other UNL administrators to develop a written policy" to make sure items sold on campus

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