

New senator requests fresh start

By Steve Smith
Senior Reporter

In his first speech as a Nebraska state senator, Leo "Pat" Engel said he wanted to put his district's problems behind and concentrate on the state's future.

The South Sioux City businessman was joined by Gov. Ben Nelson, Secretary of State Allen Beermann, Sen. Dennis Baack of Kimball, family and friends at the State Capitol during his swearing-in ceremony Wednesday.

Nelson appointed Engel last week to replace first-year Sen. Kurt Hohenstein of Dakota City.

Hohenstein resigned Aug. 10 after being convicted of a felony theft charge in Dakota County on the heels

of a four-month state investigation. Hohenstein is waiting to be sentenced as a federal investigation into his alleged misconduct continues.

Engel's district includes Thurston and Dakota counties as well as portions of Burt, Cuming, Dixon and Wayne counties in northeast Nebraska.

Engel said that by putting talk about Hohenstein to rest, his district and the rest of the Nebraska Legislature could begin the long road back to restoring their images.

"I hope we can put the past behind us," Engel said. "I hope we can begin to bring healing to District 17."

During the speech, Engel pointed out his grandchildren, who were sitting in the first row of the hearing room and said they were a source of

inspiration to him.

"We have to be committed," he said. "We have to make opportunities and leave legacies for the young."

"I'm not going to make any great changes," Engel said. "But I'll be doing my part."

Engel said many people asked why he chose to take the job.

"I spend a lot of time and sleepless nights asking that same question," he said. "Looking around, I realized I'd been asked by people who had more confidence in me than I thought."

Nelson said he was "delighted" with the new senator's willingness to serve the state.

"It will be easy for someone like Pat Engel," Nelson said.

Engineering

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have to spend some additional dollars, I would rather do it for students or administration."

Blank said regents would receive more information about the matter at their Sept. 10 meeting.

Samy Elias, associate dean for research in the UNL College of Engineering and Technology, agreed that establishing another college at UNO would go beyond the university's budget.

"We are aware that there is a need for more programs to be delivered at UNO," he said. "But we don't have the resources."

Besides, he said, Nebraska was too

small for two engineering colleges to be successful.

"It's better to have one college with strong programs," he said.

If UNO were to create another college, administrators would end up duplicating many aspects of UNL's college.

But many Omaha businesses are vying for a separate college. Walter Scott Jr., chairman of Peter Kiewit Sons' Inc., wrote a letter to the regents last week saying more than 50 businesses in the state would support a separate college.

David Sokol, president and chief executive officer of California Energy Co., said administrative duplication could be avoided by having existing UNO administration absorb the functions of the engineering college. And cooperation with area busi-

nesses could also help defray new costs, Sokol said.

"If there are additional costs, Omaha industry is prepared to make sure costs aren't borne by other taxpayers in the state," he said.

Sokol said industry supported the separate college because it would attract qualified employees to existing businesses and draw more industries to the city.

Businesses relied on continuing education programs to keep their employees updated on current engineering trends, he said.

"Omaha is developing substantially more industries that require ongoing education for employees in engineering field," Sokol said. "While that's been going on, the educational opportunities have diminished at the Omaha campus."

Smoke

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Bower said the class was run in conjunction with the use of nicotine patches, which were donated to the university from the Lederle Pharmaceutical Co.




"All those who wish to use the patch must go through a thorough medical screening because it is a prescription drug," Bower said.

"Unfortunately, all 250 of the patches available to this class are all used up or spoken for in the upcoming sessions," Bower said.


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