

Lawmakers offer eight budget bills

From The Associated Press

Before they broke Thursday for a four-day weekend, lawmakers introduced 44 more bills, bringing the total to 425 — about half the number the bill drafter's office was asked to write.

Eight bills to implement the governor's proposed \$3.6 million budget and legislative initiatives were introduced.

Sen. Pat Engel of South Sioux City and 30 of his colleagues signed a bill (LB425) included in Gov. Ben Nelson's economic development package. The measure would create a

fund to be used for low-interest economic development loans and to supplement existing economic development programs.

The bill calls for \$3 million in each year of the two-year budget cycle, and is part of Nelson's Growing One Nebraska campaign.

The seven remaining budget bills include the following: appropriate funds for salary increases for state employees; provide deficit appropriations for state government expenses; appropriate funds for capital construction and property acquisition; provide funds for current government expenses; appropriate funds for payment of salaries of members of the Legislature; provide salaries for state constitutional officers; and change the contribution rate for state employees' health insurance.

Meanwhile, state Sen. John Lindsay of Omaha offered a bill to allow people to tap another source of retirement income. The measure (397) would provide for reverse mortgages, a practice already used in some states.

Reverse mortgages allow homeowners to receive a monthly payment from a lender who buys the house in monthly installments.

"They're great for people who might otherwise not have an asset

"Many times prosecutors seek to try young offenders as adults because current law requires those tried as juveniles to be released at age 18. This would allow juveniles to be kept in jail up to age 26."

JOHN LINDSAY

State Senator of Omaha

to tap for retirement," Lindsay said.

"There's apparently some controversy that they might not be the best deal, might be a bad investment," he said.

"But I'm interested in floating it (the bill) this year to see what interest and support there is."

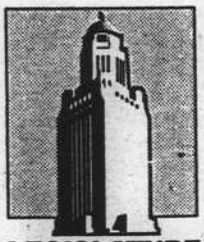
Lindsay, chairman of the Judiciary Committee, also offered another crime-related bill (LB421), which would allow juveniles who committed crimes to be kept in jail past age 18.

"Many times prosecutors seek to try young offenders as adults because current law requires those tried as juveniles to be released at age 18," Lindsay said. "This would allow juveniles to be kept in jail up to age 26."

Sen. Don Wesely of Lincoln also offered a bill (LB422) to change provisions for working hours for children under age 16.

Under the Wesely plan, children under the age of 16 could only work 18 hours a week. Current law allows them to work up to 48 hours a week.

Children would also be prohibited from working before 7 a.m. or after 7 p.m. without parental permission, and would be limited to working only three hours on school days and eight hours on weekends.



LEGISLATURE

Yesterday's King to be honored today

By Andrew Lucas
Staff Reporter

"He made America stand up to what it said it wanted to be."

That is how Venita Kelley, an assistant professor of communication studies and African American studies at UNL, remembers Martin Luther King, Jr.

Kelley is the keynote speaker at Monday's campus-wide celebration for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. The event will be held Monday at noon in the Nebraska Union.

The program includes an invocation followed by a brief talk on the

meaning of the national holiday. A welcome will be given by an ASUN representative, then Nebraska football player Eric Stokes will introduce Kelley. Chancellor Graham Spanier will speak following the keynote address.

Kelley's address, "Revitalizing the Legacy," will focus on returning to King's ideal of standing up for what he believed was right.

"Today, we're remaining neutral, even if the things our leaders are doing go against our moral and religious goals," Kelley said. "King accomplished what he did in about 13 years. What are you going to do in

your next 13 years?"

Another celebration will be in the rotunda of the State Capitol at 11:45 a.m. today. Proclamations will be given by Lincoln Mayor Mike Johanns and Gov. Ben Nelson. A keynote address will be given by Lincoln resident Clarence Hodges.

The Afrikan People's Union will be the host of a banquet on Saturday night at the Nebraska Union. The banquet will consist of a dinner followed by an entertainment program. The program is designed to be entertaining while delivering a message, APU President Ernest Smith said.

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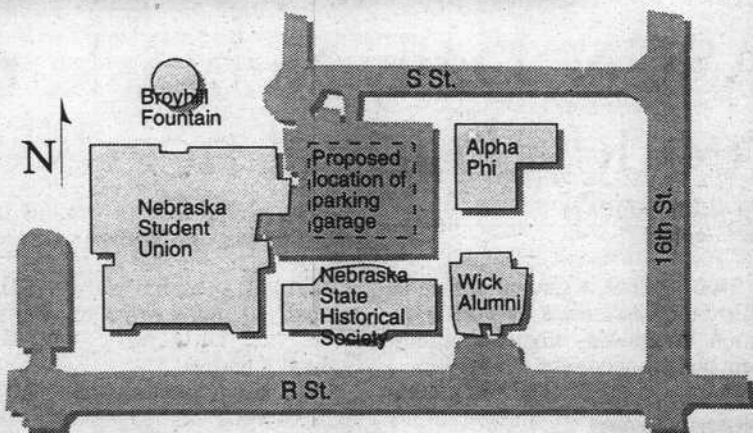
**Classes Begin: LSAT: Jan. 11
GMAT: Jan. 12**

**GRE: Jan. 28
MCAT: Jan. 29**

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KAPLAN
The answer to the test question

Proposed garage location



Alpha Phi Sorority and the Nebraska Historical Society, two would-be neighbors of the parking garage, have lobbied against the structure, whose proposal has now been withdrawn.

Garage

Continued from Page 1

Regent Nancy O'Brien of Waterloo has announced that she would like to become the new chairwoman.

Current chairman Charles Wilson of Lincoln has said he would step down from the post and not seek a second term.

Wilson said O'Brien was the only regent who had solicited his support.

"I don't want to compete with Nancy O'Brien for the chair, especially in a second year," he said. "And I think she'll be a good chair."

Also, Drew Miller of Papillion and Chuck Hassebrook of Walthill will sit on the board for the first time. It will be the first meeting for the new regents, who will serve six-year terms.

Nancy Hoch of Nebraska City lost to Miller in the Nov. 8 election. Hassebrook defeated Keith Vrbicky of Norfolk for the seat vacated by Margaret Robinson.

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