

Daily Nebraskan

COVERING THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA SINCE 1901

VOL. 94 NO. 89

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January 25, 1995



Clinton responds to angry middle class; Republicans leery

By Terence Hunt
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — In a political drama unseen for 40 years, President Clinton went before a distrustful Republican Congress Tuesday night and asked his political opponents to join him in bringing about "dramatic change in our economy, in our government and in ourselves."

Looking back on the GOP election landslide last November as well as the 1992 vote that put him in the White House, Clinton said in a nationally broadcast State of the Union address, "We didn't hear America singing. We heard America shouting. Now we must say, 'We hear you. We will work together to earn your trust.'"

Clinton was the first Democrat since Harry Truman to face a Republican Congress, and the White House viewed his speech as a crucial step in rebuilding his troubled presidency.

"Mr. President, welcome to the House," Speaker Newt Gingrich said. Despite the GOP majority, Clinton was greeted with cheers and applause.

Clinton used his speech to launch a national campaign to combat teen pregnancy.

To cut down on illegal immigration, Clinton proposed the creation of a national data bank to help employers verify the identification of prospective workers.

He also pledged to seek a raise in the minimum wage from the current \$4.25 an hour, but yielded from mentioning a specific pay scale, which GOP leaders oppose. Clinton favors a boost to \$5 over two years, aides said.

Though politically weakened, Clinton was quick to lay down challenges to the Republicans who control both the House and Senate for the first time in four decades.

Nebraska delegation differs on message

By Brian Sharp
Senior Reporter

Nebraska politicians said President Clinton faced a difficult task going into his State of the Union Address Tuesday night.

There were questions of whether he would have to reinvent himself, or at least regroup to combat the first Republican Congress in 40 years. But when Clinton stepped away from the podium after delivering a lengthy vision of tomorrow's America, they said, those questions remained.

Rep. Doug Bereuter (R-Neb.) said after the address Clinton's "New Covenant" was an attempt to reinvent a presidency. But the attempt, he said, was simply reinventing Republican's "Contract With America."

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"Let's give the folks at home something to cheer about," Clinton said, urging lawmakers to stop accepting gifts from lobbyists even before passing a bill that would outlaw them.

"When Congress killed political reform last year," he said, "the lobbyists actually stood in the halls of this sacred building and cheered."

Over and over, Clinton stressed conciliation and partnership, but he sketched out sharp differences with Republicans on how to cut taxes, shrink government and help the middle class.

"Let us put aside partisanship, pettiness and pride," he said.

"As we embark on a new course, let us put our country first, remembering that regardless of our party label, we are all Americans."

New Jersey Gov. Christine Todd Whitman,

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LATHER IT UP



Bob Roseland stands at the top of his ladder Tuesday morning while he soaps his sponge, preparing to clean the windows of the C.Y. Thompson Library on UNL's East Campus. Roseland decided to clean the windows on the North side of the building hoping the sun would keep him warm.

Gerik Parmele/DN

City employers encouraged to promote diversity

By Paula Lavigne
Senior Reporter

City employees need to reflect Lincoln's growing minority population and be sensitive to its needs, city officials said Tuesday.

Mayor Mike Johanns, other community leaders and citizens spoke at a meeting of the Multicultural Advisory Committee and the Community Conciliation Committee.

Johanns charged the groups to examine city programs, policies and procedures in light of the death of Francisco Renteria. Renteria, a Hispanic citizen, died in October after a scuffle with Lincoln police.

Sgt. James Hawkins, head of recruiting and personnel, said that of the 902 applicants to the Lincoln Police Department in 1994-95, 92 percent were white.

Although hiring will not be fin-

ished until September, Hawkins said 21 percent of those hired so far were non-white.

About 6.1 percent of the entire force is non-white, he said, compared to the 5.6 percent of the working-age population that is non-white.

In an effort to attract minority applicants, Hawkins said application forms may include a statement separate from the Equal Employment Opportunity code encouraging ap-

plicants of color to apply.

Hawkins said recruiters also would try to find bilingual and multilingual applicants.

Capt. Joy Sitta, who is also in charge of personnel and training, said hiring was not the end of the department's multicultural involvement.

Officers in training are sent to the Law Enforcement Training Center in Grand Island for eight hours of cul-

tural diversity and sensitivity training, she said.

They receive an additional six hours of training in Lincoln, she said.

"We want instructors who will encourage the officers to grow and try different things," she said. "But no matter how hard we train, the most important thing to do is to select the right people with the correct behavior."

Proposed budget may put projects on starting block

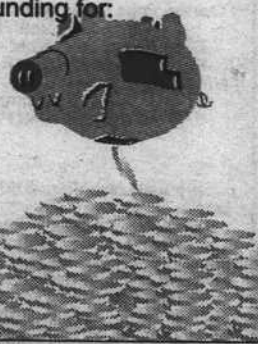
Budget recommendations

Gov. Ben Nelson's proposed budget for the University of Nebraska calls for a 3.2 percent increase in university funding for the 1995-96 fiscal year, and a 7.3 percent increase for the 1996-97 fiscal year.

The governor's recommendations include funding for:

- 15 additional faculty members, \$900,000.
- NU engineering programs, \$1.49 million.
- NU Libraries, \$228,215 each year.
- Capital construction projects, \$5.89 million (1995-96), \$4.48 million (1996-97).
- Instructional equipment, \$500,000.

Source: NU Central Administration



DN graphic

By J. Christopher Hain
Senior Reporter

Finalizing the university budget could be compared to a football game, the UNL executive director of university relations said.

Michael Mulnix said that in past years, when state government put NU in line for budget cuts, the university was starting at the 1- or 2-yard line with 98 yards to go.

But this year, Mulnix said, the university is starting at the 45- or 50-yard line.

The governor has recommended a budget increase of 3.2 percent for fiscal year 1995-96 and a 7.3 percent increase for fiscal year 1996-97.

The Legislature's Appropriations Committee will take the governor's budget into consideration when it

prepares its own budget later in the legislative session.

But the governor's recommendation was a more positive starting point than in the past few years, Mulnix said.

Those positives include state funding for capital construction projects for the first time in several years. For the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, that means a renovation of the No. 1 building priority — Burnett Hall.

Capital construction money will help replace some boilers on campus and fund completion of a link between Nebraska Hall and the Walter Scott Engineering building.

NU engineering programs would receive additional funding under the governor's recommendation — \$1.49 million of the \$1.55 million requested by NU President Dennis Smith.

A third area increased by the governor, Mulnix said, was library funding.

Increasing library funds at UNL would help offset the rising cost of periodicals and finance technology improvements and electronic access to materials, he said.

The governor's budget recommends funding for 15 additional faculty members. NU requested funding for 75. UNL will not receive all 15 faculty members, but will receive faculty in areas where student enrollment demands additional faculty.

Those areas include the College of Arts and Sciences, Teachers College, College of Journalism and Mass Communications and the actuarial science program in the College of Business and Administration.