

# Budget cuts concern Nelson

By Kathryn A. Ratliff  
Staff Reporter

During a conference call Monday, Gov. Ben Nelson said he wanted to ensure that the federal budget was not balanced at the expense of state governments.

Nelson has been in Washington, D.C. attending the Winter Meeting of the National Governors' Association since last Saturday. The budget was among a variety of issues including health care, welfare reform and the Mexican loan guarantee discussed by governors across the country and President Clinton on Monday.

Nelson said he supported Congress' need to balance the budget, but not on the backs of state governments and not without state decision-making.

"States have got to be equal partners in the process," Nelson said. "The day and age where these decisions are made in Washington is over."

Congress doesn't want to deal with tax increases, he said. And in balancing the federal budget, costs are shifted to the state level. Cuts come directly toward issues that affect the states, such as welfare and Medicaid contributions, Nelson said.

"That's not a balanced budget," Nelson said. "We won't have our budgets busted."

Nelson said it was important to recognize that a balance of power between federal and state governments was important to balancing the budget.

A balance of power will ensure that states are equal partners, that people know how their budget will be balanced and to what extent, Nelson said. It will also ensure that state governments' powers and budgets are protected and unharmed from Congress' attempts to reduce the federal budget, he said.

"We don't want the train to leave the station without the gov-

ernors," Nelson said. "There is state money to be saved."

Concerning welfare, Nelson said the reform that passed needed the maximum level of flexibility to ensure that as many people as possible were eligible. States must have the opportunity to make decisions at the local level, he said.

Nelson said it seemed that Clinton would offer that flexibility.

Regarding the Mexican loan guarantee, Nelson said it must be as risk-free as possible so the American people didn't pick up the costs. No decisions were regarding a 1995 farm bill, he said, although there are growing concerns with agriculture.

Nelson will participate in a discussion with House Speaker Newt Gingrich concerning confidence relations between Washington and the states. He also plans to testify on Capitol Hill regarding water legislation and highway funding.

# Hearings

Continued from Page 1

(Casady's trial is scheduled to begin March 20.) "Once you have an indictment, things change."

Endacott said only the testimony was secret, but their knowledge going in was not shielded by the oath and could be explored.

Kauffman said after the hearing that the case before Endacott was

rare for district court. Few cases are brought by grand jury indictments, he said, and there is no body of case law established.

Issues being raised in the courtroom, he said, have not been fully addressed even by the Nebraska Supreme Court.

Kauffman and Bartle both said they planned to proceed with Casady's trial date. If motions delay the hearing, however, Endacott's schedule is so full, the delay could be substantial.

# Resolution

Continued from Page 1

University of Nebraska over the next two years.

The Legislature should make education its top priority, Loudon said.

"I think the state of Nebraska should not have a higher priority than to educate its young people, whether it's K-12 or higher education."

Student leaders also presented their colleges' own concerns about a decrease in funding during the press conference; they also showed their support for the resolution.

Justin Peterson, student body president at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, said many non-traditional students would be affected by budget cuts.

Scott Krichau, student body president at Peru State College, said a 20 percent increase in the number of freshmen enrolled this year contributed to a shortage of faculty and staff.

Krichau said the resolution showed that every college in Nebraska had common problems.

"No one will say that one is better than the other," he said. "We all need money."

# Bills address kegs, bars' closing time

By Matthew Waite

Senior Reporter

If two bills that were stalled in a Legislature committee Monday make it to law, bars could be open an hour longer and there would be less paperwork when people bought a keg of beer.

LB468, proposed by Sen. Paul Hartnett of Bellevue, would eliminate provisions of Nebraska's liquor laws requiring that kegs be registered. The laws also require the buyer to provide a drivers license and a signature.

The law, which was created in the 1994 legislative session, made the kegs traceable to the buyer. The provision was to act as a deterrent to adults buying minors kegs for parties.

Testifying before the General Affairs Committee, Hartnett said the intent of the bill had failed.

"Although the intent of the keg

registration law is good, the reality is that it is not a deterrent," he said. "It sounds like a good idea but I don't think it is."

But Sgt. David Friend of the Omaha Police Department's Project STOP disagreed.

Testifying against the bill, Friend said that his unit, a grant-funded force that specializes in preventing minors from using alcohol, had used the registration to catch adults buying kegs for minors.

"No one claims responsibility when the police show up at a keg party," he told the committee.

Dianne Riibe, a representative of Mothers Against Drunk Driving, said she was opposed to the bill and pleaded with committee members to give the law more time.

The committee took no action on the bill.

LB217, sponsored by State Sen. Tim Hall, would give cities the op-

tion of allowing the sale of alcohol to go on an hour longer than the state mandated 1 a.m. closing.


Hall, who has sponsored a similar bill for several years, said the bill would give the decision for bars to stay open to the local government.

Hall's district, which encompasses downtown Omaha from 24th street to the Missouri River, has the largest number of liquor licenses in the state within its borders. Hall said, however, that bars' business was being hurt by Iowa bars a mere 10 minutes away that stayed open until 2 a.m.

"There is a competition issue," he said. Iowa gambling and gaming could magnify the bars' losses when casinos open in Council Bluffs, Iowa.

No one testified before the committee in opposition to the bill, but two letters opposed the bill. The committee voted 2-2 on the measure, but that fell short of the required five votes needed to make a decision.

## Congratulations!!



**Amy Hopfensperger**

Daily Nebraskan January  
Account Executive on the Month

### MACARONI AU FROMAGE

**(EAT WITH GUSTO FOR ABOUT 51¢ PER SERVING.)**

2 cups macaroni (pinwheels are fun)	1 cup milk
1 cup sharp cheddar (grated)	3 tbs flour
1/2 stick butter	1 tsp pepper
1 tsp Worcestershire (if you like)	1 tsp salt

Cook macaroni in 5 cups salted, boiling water for 15 minutes or until al dente. Drain. In a separate pot, melt butter and mix in flour over low heat. Then, stir in milk until smooth. Add cheese, salt, pepper and Worcestershire. Stir well. Smother macaroni. Serves 4.

Note: For your nutritional convenience, Citibank Classic cards are accepted at over 12 million locations, including grocery stores.

WE'RE LOOKING OUT FOR YOU.™

To apply, call 1-800-CITIBANK.