

Legislators refuse governor's tax cut

From The Associated Press

Gov. Ben Nelson said Thursday that he won't let the demise of his proposed income tax cut lead to increased spending by the Legislature.



LEGISLATURE

On a 5-3 vote, the Revenue Committee killed the Nelson plan, LB663, which would have cost the state some \$70 million over the next two fiscal years.

Nelson had said efficiency in state government and increased federal funding for some social service programs could make the tax cut possible.

After the Revenue Committee vote, Nelson said he would use his line-item veto power to block what he believes is a desire by some lawmakers to spend the savings that his program envisioned.

The override of a gubernatorial veto requires at least 30 votes from the 49-member Legislature. "I want to put the money back into the pockets of taxpayers and nothing else will do," Nelson said. "I won't go for new or increased spending, and I won't go for any tax shift ... lowering one tax burden here and increasing another one somewhere else. Tax shifts are off the table."

The administration has estimated that Nelson's plan would mean an across-the-board income tax cut of about 4.5 percent for all Nebraskans.

Nelson said he knew some rural lawmakers were more interested in property tax relief than in reducing income tax rates.

Nelson said no workable plan for reducing property taxes had been offered.

"The record of the Legislature on the part of property tax relief is awful," Nelson said. He noted that local governments had continued to increase spending regardless of how much state aid they received, or how

many government functions were assessed by the state.

Property is assessed for taxation at the local level, and property taxes are levied, collected and spent by local governments, not the state.

Voting to kill Nelson's tax cut measure were senators Stan Schellpeper of Stanton, George Coordsen of Hebron, David Landis of Lincoln and Jerome Warner of Waverly.

Voting against the kill motion were Sens. Eric Will of Omaha, Paul Hartnett of Bellevue and Doug Kristensen of Minden.

The committee's action doesn't mean the Legislature couldn't enact a tax cut. It has other bills available which could serve as vehicles for such a plan.

Warner, chairman of the committee, said he had intended to leave the bill in committee but voted to kill it "because it was obvious that there weren't going to be five votes to advance it under any circumstances."

Warner said some committee members were more interested in a property tax relief proposal. Others, including himself, were worried about whether the increased federal funds Nelson is lining up would disappear within a couple of years, Warner said.

"I could only vote for a cut in the income tax if the federal funds he is talking about were in place and if the reduction were limited to 1995 and 1996," Warner said. "The 1997 Legislature would have to make a decision on whether to continue it, based on the fiscal situation then."

Although Sen. Doug Kristensen of Minden voted against killing the bill, he said he didn't believe funds could be available for the income tax cut.

"My thought was that it is still early in the session. ... I thought it was just a little early to kill the bill since we aren't even a good way through the budget process," he said. "We could have waited."

Grading

Continued from Page 1

versity-wide policy, excluding UNMC.

James Carroll, chairman of the UNO academic and curriculum affairs committee of the academic senate, said UNL's attempt last year and the fact that it planned to discuss the minus-system again this year prompted UNO to act.

Carroll said the senate wanted to influence any new policy and not simply be forced to adhere to an existing plan. Another reason for the action, he said, was to address a growing problem.

The minus system had never been

discussed at UNO prior to Wednesday's vote, Carroll said.

Carroll said the current plus system had surprised him when he first came to UNO, because faculty had such different perceptions of what NU policy was. Some told him the plus was for students in the upper third of a grade percentage, he said, while others said it was the upper half.

Some faculty also use it more than others, he said. Such leeway is allowed under NU policy, Carroll said, and should remain if a minus system is added.

"One of the things faculty are noted for is they enjoy the independence they have when grading," he said.

Noonspeech to feature U.S. Senator

From Staff Reports

U.S. Senator Bob Kerrey, D-Neb., will be among those addressing the Nebraska Council for Public Higher Education today at noon at the Cornhusker Hotel.

University of Nebraska-Lincoln Chancellor Graham Spanier is also scheduled to speak.

On Saturday, Kerrey will be at UNL's engineering college library to address seventh- and eighth-grade students in the MATHCOUNTS competition.

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Husker Red's Poll

March 9, 1995

Men's Basketball

- Federal Express A** 6-1
Last Game: Defeated Clusters 72-69 to win IA Championship
- Sigma Alpha Epsilon A** 6-2
Last Game: Defeated Delta Upsilon 70-35 to win FA Championship
- Clusters A** 6-1
Last Game: Lost to Federal Express 72-69
- Backers B** 8-2
Last Game: Defeated Old Milwaukee 66-32 to win IB Championship
- Harper 9B** 7-0
Last Game: Defeated Harper 7 53-41 to win RHB Championship
- Farmhouse B3** 9-1
Last Game: Defeated Delta Tau Delta-B1 56-54 to win FB Championship
- Delta Tau Delta A** 4-3
Last Game Lost to Sigma Alpha Epsilon 64-56
- Aztec Mummies A** 3-2
Last Game: Lost to Clusters 51-49
- Delta Tau Delta B1** 8-1
Last Game: Lost to Farmhouse B3 56-54
- Harper 3A** 6-3
Last Game: Defeated Harper 8A to win RHA Championship
- Harper 8A** 7-1
Last Game: Lost to Harper 3A 45-44
- Old Milwaukee B** 8-3
Last Game: Lost to backers 66-32

Women's Basketball

- Big Gahoonas (WB)** 8-1
Last Game: Defeated Swish 33-29 to win WB Championship
- T.F.D.'s(WA)** 6-2
Last Game: Defeated Sharks 59-56 to win WA Championship
- Swish (WB)** 7-1
Last Game: Lost to Big Gahoonas 33-29
- Sharks(WA)** 6-1
Last Game: Lost to T.F.D.'s 59-56
- Kappa Alpha Theta(WC)** 7-1
Last Game: Defeated Delta Delta Delta 40-34 to win WC Championship
- Lady Demons(WA)** 5-2
Last Game: Lost to T.F.D.'s 48-37
- Abel 7 Hot Shots(WB)** 5-3
Last Game: Lost to Gahoonas 26-22
- Rollin' Molars(WB)** 5-4
Last Game: Lost to Swish 42-39
- Delta Delta Delta(WC)** 6-3
Last Game: Lost to Kappa Alpha Theta 40-34
- Alpha Omicron Pi(WB)** 6-3
Last Game: Lost to Rollin' Molars 45-29



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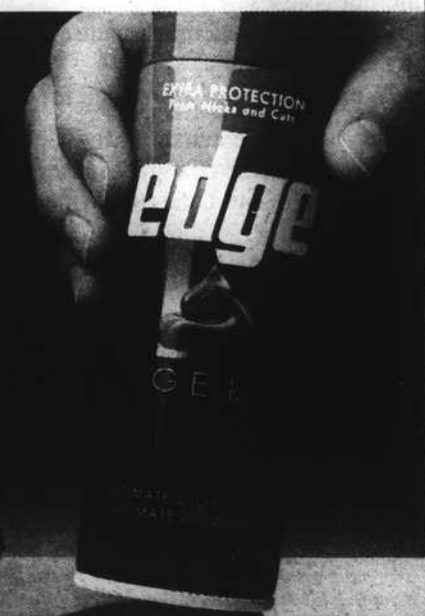
The Daily Nebraskan is now accepting applications for senior staff positions for the fall semester.

- Managing Editor
- Associate News Editors
- Sports Editor
- Arts & Entertainment Editor
- Opinion Editor
- Wire Editor
- Night News Editors
- Supplements Editor
- Senior Reporters
- Photography Director
- Senior Photographer
- Art Director
- Cartoonist
- Columnists
- Copy Desk Chief

Pick up applications and sign up for an interview at the Daily Nebraskan, 34 Nebraska Union. Applications will be accepted through March 17. Interviews will begin March 27.

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