

OPINION

Friday, March 17, 1995

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Daily
Nebraskan
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University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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Spanier's roar

Aggressive leadership will be asset to PSU

It's finally official.

Chancellor Graham Spanier is leaving his post at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to become president of Pennsylvania State University.



Chancellor
Graham
Spanier

No more rumors. No more speculation.

In his three years as chancellor, Spanier has helped move UNL forward.

He has encouraged diversity at UNL and has raised its academic standards and national reputation.

Under Spanier's leadership, UNL was designated as a Carnegie I Research University. He has improved relations with the National Science Foundation, revised UNL's general

education curriculum and recruited and maintained high-caliber faculty and staff.

Spanier also has improved campus aesthetics and research productivity and has expanded UNL's distance-education programs.

He helped attract high-ability students to UNL by designating more money for scholarships. Spanier also supported projects like NRoll and the Nebraska Union expansion and implemented programs like the dual career program for faculty and staff.

But along with the good came the bad.

At times, Spanier has been criticized for putting his liberal social agenda ahead of academics.

He angered many for issuing pink triangle stickers to faculty and staff, who were to use the stickers to notify homosexual students that they could talk to them without reservation.

Some criticized Spanier for removing Stan Liberty from his post as dean of the College of Engineering and Technology. However, Spanier should be credited for his intense lobbying efforts against the creation of a separate college.

Three years after Spanier came to UNL, the chilly climate remains in the College of Business Administration. And UNL still lags behind its peer universities in hiring female professors.

For the most part, Penn State University is getting a strong leader. Advancing from a 24,000-student campus to 69,000 students will be no easy task, but Spanier is up to the challenge.

Spanier's departure will leave a large void behind in Nebraska. But at the same time, it presents a new opportunity for UNL.

UNL has the chance to find a leader who can continue what Spanier has begun and succeed where Spanier could not.

Spanier's leadership has shown us the difference an aggressive chancellor can make.

And to replace him, UNL should bring home an even louder lion.



MEHSLING '95 DAILY NEBRASKAN

'Dealers' create dependency

People I know who have been addicted to drugs tell stories that are remarkably similar to our decades-old addiction to government. At first, they feel a rush of excitement — a high — but soon they lose control and must have the drugs to give their life meaning. Ultimately, they become completely dependent.

For many, attempts to end drug dependency produce physical and emotional pain. But not trying to break the habit dooms the addict to an existence that falls far short of a life's potential.

This is the course of modern government. Liberal politicians have become "dealers" in dependency. They have captured the souls of countless numbers with programs and policies that have hooked us as effectively as if the drug were heroin or cocaine. These dealers in government addiction dispense their drugs in the form of checks drawn on the account of American taxpayers. And they convey a message that government is the only salvation to those they have persuaded are incapable of making it on their own. By the time most people awaken to their dilemma, it is too late. They are hooked.

As the Republican congressional majority seeks to rein in the out-of-control spending and growth of government — in many cases not cutting its size, just reducing the rate of increases — the howls from the special interests and lobbyists resemble a drug user going cold turkey. But these people are concerned about one thing: their own loss of power.

The reaction to proposals concerning the school lunch program is typical. The Republican



Cal Thomas

plan would spend more than current levels, but would slightly reduce a planned increase. The Clinton administration's spending proposal reduces the increase even more than the Republican proposal, so why are the Republicans taking the heat? Because Democrats are so effective at propagandizing the issue of starving children.

Other efforts to reduce government dependency and its associated costs will bring even louder screams because benefit programs now make up half of the \$1.5 trillion federal budget and are its fastest-growing component.

Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan and other experts have complained that the current system of calculating cost-of-living increases in many benefit programs overstates the inflation rate by up to 1.5 percentage points.

Recalculating that rate would save an extra \$64 billion for the government over five years, about one-third of it coming from lower cost-of-living adjustments for Social Security recipients. That amounts to an adjustment of only 10 cents a day, according to Sen. Judd Gregg (R-N.H.). "I don't know many people who in the name of fairness will take the 10 cents," says Gregg.

Other proposals include limiting Medicaid growth by providing block grants to the states, saving an estimated \$115 billion over five years. Such grants to the states for welfare benefits, along with a change in Supplemental Security Income — which provides aid to the blind, the elderly and disabled poor — would tighten eligibility and deny benefits to drug addicts, alcoholics and others (yes, many now get government checks). Estimated savings, \$89 billion over five years.

Republicans have underestimated the intensity of the opposition. For every empty school-lunch tray the liberals produce in their bogus claim about starving children, Republicans should produce a drug addict or an alcoholic on the dole. And Republicans should continually hammer away at what the big-government "dealers" have created: a culture of dependency, loss of initiative and self-reliance, a breakup of families who used to hold each other accountable while they held themselves together as a unit and a bureaucracy we can no longer afford.

Republicans have had to play defense for years as a congressional minority — they must not continue in that role now that they have the ball. They must do a better job promoting their ideas, behaving like the majority and putting liberals on the defensive. They must show Americans that true compassion is freeing people from their unhealthy dependency. How about the slogan: "Just say 'No' to big government."

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