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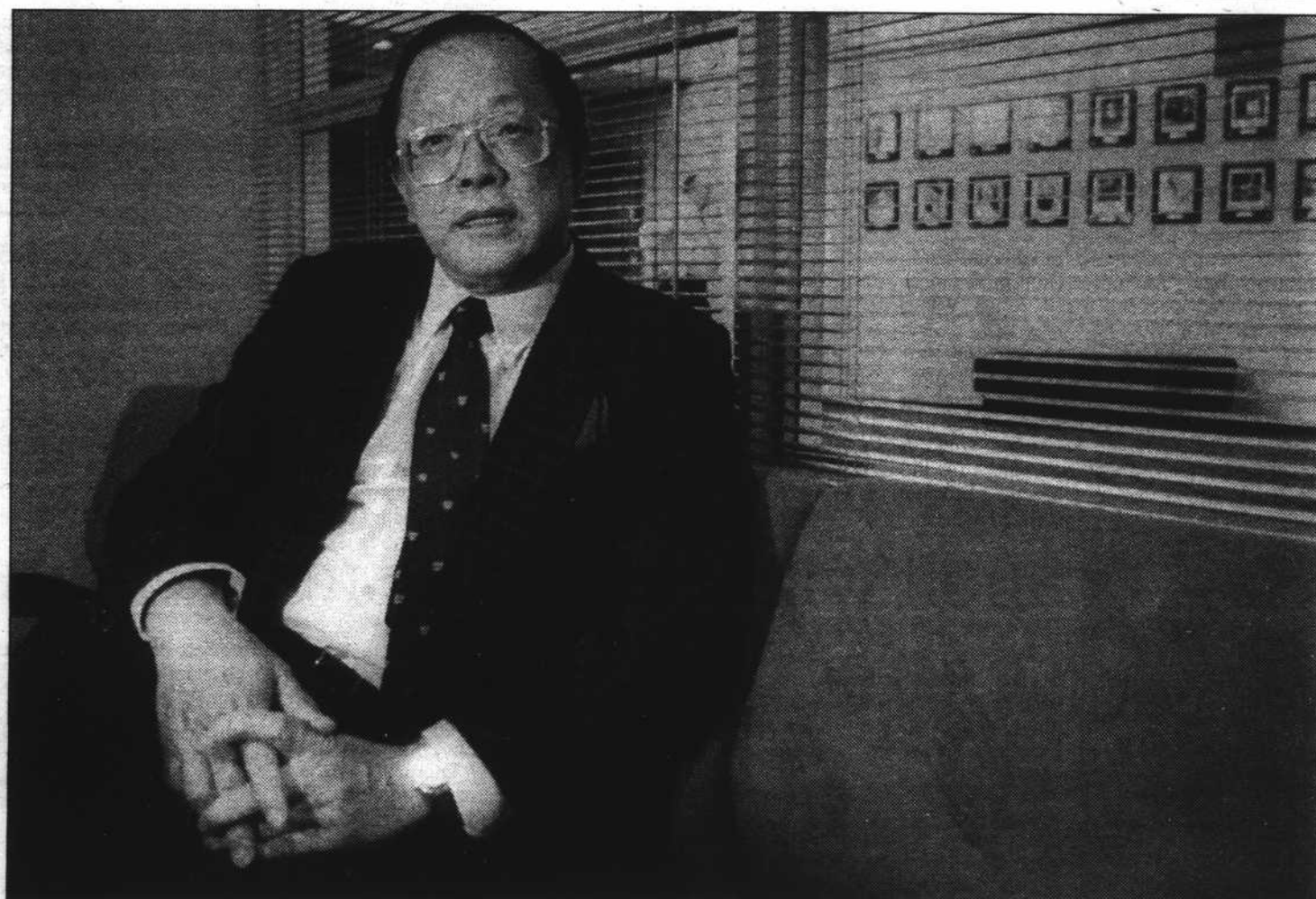


**WEATHER:**

**Today -** Morning fog then partly sunny. South wind 5 to 15 mph.

**Tonight -** Partly cloudy. Low in the mid 30s.

November 16, 1995



Tanna Kinnaman/DN

Francis T. Seow relaxes inside the green room at the Lied Center before speaking at the E.N. Thompson Forum Wednesday afternoon.

## Seow unveils Singapore's evils

By John Fulwider  
Senior Reporter

Francis Seow said the best way to get a feel for Singapore is to visit it.

Fly to the Southeast Asian country on its national airline, voted the world's best for the last six years. Land at its international airport, voted the world's best for the last seven years. Let a clean, air-conditioned taxi whisk you away to one of its finest hotels.

There will be no traffic jams to slow you, he said, no potholes to jar your travel, no homeless people or beggars to disturb you. No graffiti covers the buildings, and the streets are safe to walk on alone at night.

"Singapore is a clean and green metropolis where everything works," Seow said. He spoke Wednesday at the Lied Center for Performing Arts as part of the E.N. Thompson Forum on World Issues lecture series. He titled his lecture "Singapore — The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly."

Beneath Singapore's polished veneer, he said, lies an authoritarian government headed by Senior Minister Lee Kuan Yew.

Lee is not Singapore's official leader, he said, but he may as well be because of his far-reaching influence. He said the prime minister, Goh Chok Dong, is unable to make any government changes while Lee remains alive.

Life in Singapore under Lee's government, Seow said, is best illustrated by what Lee says: "We decide what is right. Never mind what the people think."

Seow became a victim of Lee's dictatorial governing style when he was arrested in 1988. He spent 72 days in solitary confinement. No formal charges were ever filed against him. Seow has not returned to his homeland since his release.

Seow related many stories of Lee's stranglehold on Singapore.

In 1963, he said, more than 100 people were arrested and imprisoned without trial, accused of being pro-Communist. They were actually Lee's political opponents, who objected to Singapore's incorporation in the Federation of Malaysia.

When Singapore was kicked out of the federation, he said, those prisoners were not

released. It was more convenient for Lee to keep them as prisoners, Seow said.

Lee even abolished the privy court, Singapore's appeals court, because it had allowed an appeal for one of his political opponents.

"The judiciary in Singapore is neither independent nor free," he said. "It is pliant. It is corrupt."

Lee used to spend much of his time falsely accusing his opponents of being pro-Communist, Seow said. But now Lee has turned around, becoming strongly in favor of relations with Communist China.

In 1972, Lee accused a Singapore newspaper of glamorizing communism, Seow said. The newspaper had covered the Peking, China International Pingpong Championship.

But Lee later ordered the names of all Singaporean children changed to conform to Communist Chinese-style spellings — without the consent of their parents.

Lee also gained control of Singapore's

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## Gov. Nelson comments on budget, trade

By Ted Taylor  
Staff Reporter

Half a world away, Gov. Ben Nelson called the recent events in Washington a severe case of presidential politics.

Speaking from New Dehli, India, Nelson told the press Wednesday during his weekly teleconference that countries across the world must be looking at the United States and asking, "What kind of country is this?"

"Presidential politics has reared its ugly head in a most unimaginable way," he said.

Nelson's voice heightened as he began assessing the situation back home.

"Every American wants the budget reduced," he said. "But it has to be a budget that people can live with. There has to be some give and take, and both parties have to come to realize that."

Nelson said the American people were not the only ones perplexed by the situation. India President Shankar Sayal Sharma questioned Nelson about the shutdown during a reception Tuesday night.

"President Sharma asked me what was going on," he said. "I told him I could not justify it, but I would try to explain it to him."

Nelson said he could only imagine what the shutdown's impact would be if it lasted another few weeks.

"When Social Security can't accept new applications and the Internal Revenue Service can't offer tax help, it will not be without pain. At some point, we will not be able to absorb the lack of services."

Nelson and Nebraska business leaders are wrapping up a trade mission that sent them to four central Asian countries in the last 10 days.

Visits to Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia preceded the stop in India, where the Nebraska delegation met with government officials and industry leaders to help develop trade with Nebraska.

Tony Raimondo, president and chief executive officer of Behlen Manufacturing in Columbus and a member of the Nebraska delegation, said he was encouraged by India's positive outlook toward increasing trade and providing jobs for its people.

"The government here is very sensitive to people and their jobs," he said. "The absolute major focus is to bring trade to India and help get people out of poverty."

Nelson said Indian officials were interested in working with Nebraska businesses such as ConAgra, Union Pacific Railroad and Behlen Manufacturing, an agriculture products company.

The Nebraska delegation will return home late today.

## Kozak relaxes with chemistry

By Paula Lavigne  
Senior Reporter

A university administrator who has to sort through papers all day might want to take a leisurely break from the office every now and then.



Kozak one of three chancellor candidates for the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

When John Kozak, Iowa State University provost, takes that break, he's still sitting at a desk with a pencil and paper ... pondering theoretical chemistry.

The mild-mannered Kozak is one of three chancellor candidates for the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

He began his career in higher education as an assistant professor of chemistry at the University of Notre Dame in 1968. He later became associate dean of the College of Sciences.

When Kozak went into administration in 1970, he used his penchant for chemistry as a stress reliever.

"Some people relax by playing the piano or writing poetry," he said. "I like to sit for an hour working in my area of research."

"My wife accuses me of it being a hobby."

Catherine Kozak, a biochemist, regards it as just that.

"She doesn't regard a theoretical chemist as being a 'real' chemist," Kozak said, laughing. "She thinks that chemistry is mixing something that's green with something that's blue and

it turns chartreuse."

His wife believes chemistry is watching things gurgle, he said, something more tactile than theoretical chemistry.

The more sterile activities of sitting at a desk with paper and pencil are a bit much for her, he said.

Edwin Lewis, associate provost at ISU, said that behavior suited Kozak's quiet personality.

"I would say he's very low-key," Lewis said. "He doesn't display emotion a whole lot."

"He's very polite." Kozak also is an approachable person, Lewis said.

"He's not a real outgoing person, but he deals kindly with people who

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## Finalists finally here



• Dates listed in Wednesday's Daily Nebraskan were for chancellor candidates' press conferences, which will be at 1:15 p.m. in Varner Hall. Receptions for the candidates will be today for John Kozak, Monday for James Moeser and Tuesday for Thomas George. All receptions will be at 4:15 p.m. at the Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery.

• Look for personal features and coverage of the candidates' visits in coming issues of the Daily Nebraskan.