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WEATHER:

Today - Partly sunny.
Norhtwest wind 5 to 20
mph.

Tonight - Cloudy. Low
near 25 to 30.



January 24, 1996

Clinton confronts skeptical Congress

By Terence Hunt
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — In a State of the Union address to a skeptical Republican Congress, President Clinton Tuesday night traced the themes of his upcoming re-election campaign and confronted the GOP on the budget, demanding they "never, ever" shut the government again.

State of the Union



Democrats rose with loud cheers, but Republicans sat in stony silence at Clinton's challenge. GOP lawmakers — particularly the rebellious House freshmen — had been coached by party elders to be on good behavior and not boo Clinton, as some did last year.

The speech was brief by Clinton standards — 61 minutes — far less than last year's record 81-minute mara-

thon. Clinton proposed several new initiatives, among them \$1,000 college scholarships for the top 5 percent of graduates from every high school, and turning the FBI loose on youth gangs.

House Speaker Newt Gingrich, Clinton's yearlong nemesis, sat immediately behind the president, applauding politely on some occasions, and sitting in stern silence when the president criticized Congress.

And criticize he did. "I challenge all of you in this chamber," Clinton said, "never, ever shut the government again." He said it was time to "finish the job" and pass a balanced budget plan that he could sign.

First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, listening along with her GOP Whitewater critics, was applauded as she entered with her 15-year-old daughter, Chelsea, making her first State of the Union appearance. The president introduced the beleaguered Hillary Clinton as a "wonderful wife, a magnificent mother and a great first

lady," and Chelsea led a standing ovation of Democrats and Republicans alike.

"The era of big government is over," Clinton said, twice, as if to capture a campaign slogan.

Clinton said the state of the union was "strong" and cited economic and falling crime rates to make the case.

With tempers rubbed raw by months of battle, Republicans accused Clinton of standing in the way of balancing the budget, cutting taxes, reforming welfare and giving parents more control over schools.

Clinton's speech provided a clear counterpoint to the Republican agenda. He challenged their stands on welfare reform, tax cuts, the minimum wage, health insurance, Medicare and Medicaid, environmental cleanup, crime-fighting and foreign policy.

Many Congressional Republicans — especially among the House freshmen — are furious with Clinton for

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Speech draws mixed response

By Ted Taylor
Senior Reporter

Nebraska politicians were divided on President Clinton's State of the Union address Tuesday night, saying it wasn't without its bright spots but that partisan politics had again reared its ugly head.

"I thought the partisanship was too heavy. You can see neither side is willing to budge very much," Gov. Ben Nelson said regarding the current budget crisis.

Republican Rep. Doug Bereuter criticized the address, saying Clinton passed up an opportunity "to forsake political gamesmanship and really work with the Republican-controlled Congress for the good of the country."

But Nelson praised Clinton for his comments about returning power to the states.

"I'm encouraged that some power will be given back to the states," he said.

Among Clinton's proposals was a scholarship program that would give \$1,000 to every high school student who graduates in the top five percent of his or her class.

Nelson said the program would gain a lot of attention, but he questioned whether Washington was capable of managing it and other Clinton proposals.

Bereuter questioned where money for Clinton's programs would come from.

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Professor helps African natives

By Erin Schulte
Staff Reporter

Africa is changing. Man-made structures are replacing natural agricultural assets. Families are being moved off native lands and into government projects.

And although this progress is inevitable, Robert Hitchcock says he is trying to ease the transition for native Africans.

Hitchcock, an associate professor of anthropology and coordinator of African studies, spends about three months of every year in Third World countries (usually southern Africa) overseeing development projects and trying to help natives adjust to modernization.

This often involves building schools or medical facilities, overseeing natural resource management, and helping to improve development plans proposed by banks or funding agencies. Hitchcock said his job was to make sure money for development was put to proper use.

For years, he said, indigenous people have been displaced in the name of technological development, both in the United States and overseas.

"It's impossible that development won't reach these areas," Hitchcock said. "World population is too high. It's not possible for them to be remote."

About 300 million indigenous people across the globe are being affected by development projects, and the effects are usually the same in any country, he said.

Indigenous people suffer in four ways, he said: Their land is taken away, they are forced to abide by treaties, their resource base (livestock or land) is destroyed, and they become dependent on the state.

Hitchcock learned of the plight of the African bushmen when he was researching archeology in Africa 20 years ago. The bushmen told Hitchcock about government takeover of their lands.

This, he said, was when he started his lifelong quest to preserve human rights of indigenous people.

His trips usually are funded by churches or state departments of various countries.

"I'm realistic enough to know that if I don't intervene, it will be a lot worse for them," Hitchcock said.

Government funding often helps out the indigenous people affected by these programs. Countries such as Norway and Sweden spend up to 10 percent of their budgets on development projects in foreign coun-

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Scott Bruhn/DN

Robert Hitchcock, associate professor of anthropology and coordinator of African studies at UNL, is shown with a Nigerian secret society mask used in traditional ceremonies. Hitchcock will be returning to Africa this June for a six-month stay.

Schlondorf sentenced in shooting

By Chad Lorenz
Senior Reporter

A former University of Nebraska-Lincoln student convicted in the shooting of a UNL police officer was sentenced Tuesday to at least 20 years in prison.

Gerald Schlondorf, 32, pleaded not responsible by reason of insanity to nine felony charges stemming from a Sept. 12, 1994, car chase and shooting.

In December, a jury found him guilty on seven of nine felony counts, including attempted second-degree murder, first-degree assault, making terroristic threats, fleeing to avoid arrest and three counts of using a weapon to commit a felony.

The total maximum sentence for all counts was 170 years.

Lancaster County District Judge Bernard McGinn sentenced Schlondorf to no fewer than 20 years in prison and no more than 56 years.

Schlondorf led police on a low-speed chase through Lincoln after he pointed a .45-caliber, semi-automatic Thompson replica and yelled "bang, bang" at two Lincoln police officers.

During the chase, Schlondorf fired shots at University of Nebraska-Lincoln police officer Robert Soflin near 16th and R streets. Soflin sustained wounds to his hand, neck and shoulder.

Before the sentencing, Schlondorf offered an apology.

"I never would have tried to hurt anyone if I wasn't obsessed with suicide," he said. "I didn't mean to hurt anyone."

Schlondorf threatened suicide several times and actually attempted suicide in April 1993 when he was a resident of Neihardt Residence Hall. Ironically, it was Soflin who saved Schlondorf's life that night.

Dennis Keefe, the public defender who represented Schlondorf, said the circumstances of the case made determining a fair sentence difficult.

"The judge had as hard of a time as we did," Keefe said. "Given the total facts of this case ... the judge was as fair as he could be."

The sentence gave Schlondorf a hope for getting mental treatment after his release, Keefe said. Schlondorf may be released on parole in 8 1/2 years, he said.

Chief Deputy Attorney John Colborn, who prosecuted Schlondorf, declined to comment on the sentence.

Soflin said he thought the jail sentence was fair and justified for public safety reasons.

"I felt justice was served," Soflin said.