

# Author encourages expanding knowledge

BY BRIAN CARLSON  
Staff Reporter

Ted Sorenson, former special counsel to President John F. Kennedy, addressed the importance of the humanities for America's political future in a speech at Kimball Hall Thursday.

In his lecture, "Poetry and Politics: The Importance of Liberal Arts Education for Public Leadership in the Twenty-first Century," the Lincoln native and UNL alumnus said the important connection between politics and intellectualism has been ignored.

"Politicians and intellectuals, instead of collaborating for the public good, tend to view each other's professions with disdain," he said.

Sorenson noted that the country's early politicians often quoted philosophy and literature in their arguments. A politician's command of the language and poetry gave him a distinct advantage over his counterparts, he said.

The separation of the political and intellectual is unfortunate, Sorenson said.

"No leader can understand the problems of today without some knowledge of the past, of other cultures and other religions," he said.

Sorenson also criticized recent efforts to decrease federal funding for the arts and humanities.

He said that America should not privatize "all of its culture and knowledge." Without public assistance, he said, artists such as Michelangelo and

Shakespeare could not have achieved what they did.

Sorenson encouraged students to take as many humanities courses as possible. He emphasized that tomorrow's leaders should have their minds "stuffed" with knowledge but also "stretched" to increase their understanding of literature, arts and culture.

"We must lead through the power of our intellectual might," he said.

Sorenson's speech was sponsored by the Nebraska Humanities Council. Gov. Ben Nelson introduced Sorenson.

Author of the 1965 international best-seller, "Kennedy," Sorenson published his latest book, "Why I am a Democrat," this year. He will sign copies at the Nebraska Bookstore Friday from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.

# Speaker: U.S. can push human rights

BY ERIN GIBSON  
Staff Reporter

In a speech dotted with tales of human-rights abuses in Chile and Romania, a former U.S. ambassador to those two countries and India detailed the United States' power to promote human rights.

Harry Barnes Jr.'s speech Thursday night kicked off the Hendricks Symposium to Address Human Rights, which will continue today through Sunday at the Nebraska Union.

While serving as an ambassador during the Nixon, Ford, Carter and Reagan administrations, Barnes promoted democracy, free-market reforms and a greater worldwide respect for basic human rights.

The soft-spoken Barnes commanded the audience's attention as he told of graphic encounters with human-rights abuses.

In Chile for example, military police doused a man in gasoline and burned him alive for his father's political affiliations, Barnes said.

During the 1970s, Congress re-

sponded to the country's demands that human-rights abuses around the world not be ignored, he said.

"We are not in one of those periods now," Barnes said.

Barnes said he worried that the United States would stop intervening in human rights abuses by foreign countries.

Lindsey Smith, a senior international affairs major at UNL, called Barnes' speech "outstanding."

"I appreciated his perspective as a nonpolitical ambassador," she said.

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