



# Expenditure fund aids GOP

By **MATTHEW WAITE**  
Senior Reporter

Nebraska has become a target state for the Republican Party's senate campaign strategy, state and national GOP sources said Thursday, and the attention has touched off a funding flap.

The national Republican Party has started to funnel money into a joint expenditure fund, a legal fund limited by state law to \$140,000, and has brought in two prominent senators to campaign for businessman Chuck Hagel's senate campaign.

The money is being used to buy television time for Hagel, said Deb Fiddelke, Hagel's spokeswoman.

Democratic Gov. Ben Nelson's campaign said television ad buys of more than \$78,000 from two Omaha television stations was Republican "soft money," used to pay for smear ads for Hagel and Rep. Jon Christensen of Omaha.

But Fiddelke said those expenditures were mostly for Christensen's campaign against Democrat James Martin Davis.

She then countered by pointing to a Washington Post report and a USA Today editorial about shady campaign finance practices used by the Democrats. USA Today specifically cited Nelson's campaign.

Advertising buy reports released by the Nelson campaign do not indicate which race ads are for.

The flap has coincided with visits to Nebraska by two prominent Republican senators. Texas Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison was in Omaha on Thursday and Oklahoma Sen. Don Nichols was in Grand Is-

land on Wednesday. Both were here to campaign for Hagel.

Hagel said in Grand Island Wednesday that the attention from the national GOP was a boost to the campaign.

"For me, having no ... office like the governor, this starts to even the playing field," he said.

Polls released in the last few weeks have put Hagel eight points behind his Democrat opponent, Gov. Ben Nelson. The polls had a four-point margin of error.

Nelson spokesman Adam Branting said they have been waiting for Republican soft money — money coming from the party, not the candidate — to start pouring into Nebraska.

"The Republicans have a lot of money to throw around, especially soft money," he said. Branting said the ads that money paid for probably would smear Nelson.

Branting criticized Hagel for first saying he would not allow negative ads on his behalf, then later saying he could not stop third-party advertising.

The influx of Republican money and influence will not change Nelson's strategy, which is to talk about issues, Branting said.

Fiddelke said the Democrats could do the same for Nelson as the Republicans are doing for Hagel.

"The Nelson camp is getting just a little bit paranoid," she said.

John Hibbing, a University of Nebraska-Lincoln political science professor, said the GOP attention was a good sign for the Hagel camp.

"It means the important players think he's got a chance to win," Hibbing said.

Hibbing added that Republican

assistance this late in the campaign was typical of the party, which traditionally has more money than the Democrats.

Sen. Nichols said Nebraska is a key state in the GOP's bid to keep the majority in the senate.

He said Wednesday that Hagel's conservative vote was crucial in the Republican senate, since several issues the GOP has opposed have passed by one vote.

"We have so many important issues that are so close that I hope that people realize that this election is important," Nichols said.

Nichols, who has served as the Republican Senate Campaign Committee chairman, said the party looks at states that have good candidates and a political climate geared towards the GOP.

Forty-nine percent of Nebraska's registered voters in 1996 are Republicans, 38 percent are Democrats and 13 percent are independent.

Nichols said that without Hagel, the Senate may be run by Washington liberals, such as Ted Kennedy of Massachusetts.

"I don't think Nebraskans want that."

With key issues such as social security, Medicare, defense spending and taxes on the agenda, a conservative senator from Nebraska is important, Nichols said.

"We almost want to shake people and say, 'look at what's at stake here,'" he said.

But even with all the attention of the party, Hagel said, the race is still between two men.

"This race is going to come down to the difference between Ben Nelson and Chuck Hagel."

# Nelson's budget plan hot topic for public

By **CHAD LORENZ**  
Senior Reporter

When 1,000 Nebraskans called the Nelson for Senate campaign office requesting a copy of the the governor's proposed federal budget plan, the campaign staff knew they were on to something.

"This is a topic people are desperately interested in," Adam Branting, press secretary for U.S. Senate candidate Ben Nelson, said.

And Nelson's campaign has responded by focusing on satisfying Nebraskans' interest in the issues.

"If there's any strategy, it's to give people the information they want and need," Branting said.

Nelson's budget plan, dubbed "The Plan You Can Count On," has been prepared and made available for anyone to see, Branting said.

Nelson's opponent, Chuck Hagel, has not been as accommodating, Branting said.

"When you ask for a copy of his budget plan, it's not forthcoming."

For instance, Branting said, Hagel has said he would cut 29 regulatory agencies from the federal budget but didn't specify which agencies.

Nelson, however, told voters exactly what cuts he would make to balance the budget. Hagel has said he would balance the budget, but did not say specifically where, Branting said.

"I think Nebraskans are tired of that," Branting said. "They want somebody to look them straight in the eye and tell them exactly what they're going to do."

Nelson has earned Nebraskans'

trust by giving them those straightforward answers during his six years as governor, Branting said.

Among his endorsements are the Omaha Federation of Labor, the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare, the Nurse's Association, Professional Firefighter's Association and the Fraternal Order of Police.

Ken Pollard, president of the Nebraska Professional Firefighters Association, said Nelson earned the association's endorsement by giving public safety officers the tools they need to work.

"The firefighters and police officers risk their lives each day for the people of this state," Pollard said. "What Ben Nelson has brought to the table was that what's good for public safety officers is good for the public."

The Fraternal Order of Police endorsement came one day after Nelson announced the start of construction for a new state juvenile detention center.

The center will reform Nebraska's hardest youth criminals, who are responsible for an increasingly high proportion of crime, Nelson has said.

"In order to stop the alarming increases in juvenile crime that are confronting the rest of the nation, we here in Nebraska are taking bold steps," Nelson said this week.

"We have chosen to tackle the problem now so we will not have to pay dearly for it later."

The support of a wide range of groups and clear stands on issues are crucial to the campaign now, Branting said.

"At this point, people are making their final decisions. They're looking at the candidates closely," Branting said.



## "Reflection of Perfection"

Friday—Big Red Carnival 5:30 PM. At Broyhill Plaza

- Live Music By "Aces High"
- Fairbury Brand Hot Dogs, Coke And Free Ice Cream From Colby Ridge & Nebraska Bookstore giveaways.
- Paint Your Face Or Throw A Pie In Someone Else's -- We Have Games For Everyone!

**Homecoming Dance Information**  
Vans will shuttle students to and from the Lancaster Building, starting at 9:30 pm until 2:00 am.  
Catch a ride at these locations: City Campus — Union loop, Abel-Sandoz, & Campus Recreation  
East Campus — Continuing Education Building (corner of 33rd and Holdrege)

Students, Buy One Of These:  
BUY NOW at the ASUN office (115 NE Union) from 9:00 am — 4:00 pm today or look for us at the carnival

**ALL UNIVERSITY HOMECOMING DANCE**  
**LIE AWAKE CASH BAR**  
10:00pm to 1:00am Friday October 11th  
LOCATION- LANCASTER BUILDING, NE STATE FAIR GROUNDS  
ADMIT ONE \$2.00 IN ADVANCE  
ADMIT ONE \$3.00 AT THE DOOR

ASUN-UNL Student Government  
Interfraternity Council  
Pan-Hellenic Council  
Residence Hall Association  
Student Alumni Association  
University Program Council  
Agri. Sciences & Nat. Res. Student Adv. Bd.  
Student Foundation  
Ambassadors


**Tickets Are Limited!**

*There really is a difference.*

**NEBRASKA BOOKSTORE**

1300 Q Street • 476-0111  
Serving the University of Nebraska since 1912.  
One Block South of Love Library

**ROCK-N-ROLL**  
WITH  
Lincoln's Hottest  
Band:  
**"One More Time"**  
Friday, Oct. 11th  
9 pm-12:30 am  
\$5 Admission  
18 & Over



**The PLA MOR**  
5 miles west  
on 'O' Street  
doors open at 8:30 pm

Antiques • Floral • Gifts • Primitive & Country Art • Stop in and see our unique gift lines including... Gourmet Foods, Candles, Books, Stationery and much more.

## GATHERINGS



The Historic Haymarket  
100 N. 8th St. • Armour Bldg.  
Lincoln, NE • 402-476-1911