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Moore considers run

BY BRIAN CARLSON Assignment Reporter

Nebraska Secretary of State Scott Moore is leaving the door open for a possible run for the Republican nomination for governor in the May primary elections.

Moore told a group of University of Nebraska-Lincoln College Republicans on Wednesday night that it's a great time to be involved in state government, but gave no solid indications about his own future involvement in Nebraska politics. Time, money and statewide organization are sible pitfalls. the factors he said he is weighing as he ponders a gubernatorial run.

an interview. "I'm actively talking about it, and I've received some encouragement."

Two Republicans have already announced their candidacy. State Auditor John Breslow and Lincoln Mayor Mike Johanns have been campaigning for the past two years.

But high-profile Republicans who have opted not to run have left room for a possible Moore candidacy.

Jan Stoney, who lost the U.S. Senate race to Bob Kerrey in the 1994 general election, announced earlier this year that she would not run for governor. Last week, the 1st District's 10-term Congressman Doug Bereuter decided to seek re-election to the U.S. House of Representatives rather than make a bid for the governor's mansion.

Had either of these candidates month. opted to run for governor, Moore said, he would have ruled out the possibility of his own candidacy. Moore said Stoney and Bereuter were "top-tier candidates Republicans could have really rallied around."

possible,

In his statement last week announcing his plans not to run for by name as a possible strong Republican gubernatorial candidate. Bereuter also named Secretary of

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I don't necessarily think the two announced Republicans are better candidates than me."

SCOTT MOORE secretary of state

State Dave Heineman and Beatrice state Sen. Dave Maurstad as potential GOP hopefuls.

Moore said he sees competling reasons to join the race, as well as pos-

He cited a June statewide poll of Republican voters that showed "I'm not saying no," Moore said in Bereuter to have nearly a 40-point lead over Breslow and Johanns. Breslow and Johanns each received the support of less than 10 percent of poll respondents.

Moore said the poll results have rovided a temptation for more Republican candidates to join the race

"I don't necessarily think the two announced Republicans are better candidates than me," Moore said.

Nebraska Republican Party officials have said their job is to encourage several strong Republican candidates to run for governor. Andy Abboud, executive director of the state party, agreed last week with Bereuter that there is room for more Republican candidates in the May primary. However, he said he expected the Republican ballot to be set by next

The problem that Moore and other possible late-announcing Republican candidates face is the head start that Breslow and Johanns have gained in the last two years.

Breslow's fund-raising efforts With Stoney and Bereuter out of have already reached the \$1.1 million the hunt, a Moore candidacy is still mark, and both candidates have built up statewide campaign networks with offices throughout the state.

But Moore said huge campaign governor, Bereuter mentioned Moore funds don't always translate into victory on Election Day. He said he could cite several examples of statewide races in which candidates spent sub-

stantially more than their opponents without winning their races

Nevertheless, the primary elections are just eight months away, and Moore said he realized a great deal of work would need to be done to mount a candidacy.

"I'm looking at it, and we're going to see if we have the time and organization and can put it together," he said.

Another consideration for Moore is his future as secretary of state. Moore will come up for re-election in 1998

Moore said additional Republican gubernatorial candidates will need to make their decisions soon. For his part, Moore seems to be in no hurry to make up his mind.

"I don't have a timeline," he said. Moore spoke briefly to College Republicans attending their first meeting of the year. He encouraged members to become involved in the upcoming elections and expressed confidence that the Republican nominee for governor would win in November 1998. No Democrat has announced a gubernatorial candidacy, a fact that sat well with those attending Wednesday's meeting.

The list of speakers for the College Republicans' fall meetings reads like a potential primary gubernatorial ballot. Breslow and Johanns are each slated to speak to the organization later this fall, as are Matt Butler and Elliott Rustad, Republican candidates for lieutenant governor. Representatives of all four candidates spoke Wednesday night.

But Moore said his Wednesday. appearance wasn't meant as a stop on the campaign trail. He said he enjoys speaking to young people "without having my hand out."



New technology to benefit public

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meetings In the past, the council had to three years. move some meetings to other parts

trator, said the system is energyefficient and has been used commercially just within the last two to

He said the system works by of the city because the chambers using heat pumps to extract ground water from a well, then through broadcast the meetings, the Citizen pipes, tanks, compressors to heat and cool the buildings. Large tanks will make ice in the evenings from well water, which in turn will be used to cool the buildings in the The public also will benefit late afternoon when the heat pumps shut off, Killeen said. "For example, on a 100-degree day we'll be using less energy than we ever have," he said. Flanders said the entire project, share operations in the remodeled including the new building, will cost \$29 million. The new audio and visual presentation equipment cost \$94,249 and will be used with some old equipment. The other equipment for the new studio and television media center is paid for by a cable Hudkins said he was excited about the construction and thought the public would be pleased when everything is done. "This way they can go to one office and get their needs met and then be on their way," he said. "There will be a lot of efficiencies gained in both ser-

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didn't provide enough space. To Information Center media crew would have to take a van filled with equipment to the new location.

when the new Justice and Law Enforcement Center is completed in December 1999, Saldana said. The Lancaster Sheriff's Office and Lincoln Police Department will County-City Building, she said.

The two departments will share record staff, locker rooms, investigation rooms, conference rooms and some equipment, she said.

"By sharing space and some functions, we're able to save the taxpayers dollars that would've television grant to the city. otherwise went toward separate functions," she said.

In addition to better communications, the existing and new County-City Buildings will use technology in a new heating and air-conditioning system designed to save money.

Don Killeen, building adminis- vices and space."