

# Speaker: China changing

BY ADAM KLINKER  
Staff Reporter

With an increasing optimism surging through its younger generation, the People's Republic of China is taking a new attitude in international and domestic policy dealings, an international affairs expert said Wednesday.

Richard Burkholder Jr., vice president and director of international operations for the Gallup Organization, said China is changing its role in the world and reevaluating its domestic ideas on economics and on lifestyles.

And the ideals of Chinese consumers are changing, Burkholder said during his speech for the E.N. Thompson Forum on World Issues in the Lied Center for Performing Arts.

Burkholder said he led the crusade to poll the Chinese people for the first time in the nation's history in 1994 and again in 1997.

For the poll, Gallup interviewed 3,727 people of varying geographic, economic and cultural backgrounds across China.

"We tend to see China as one nation and one people, when in fact there are many Chinas," Burkholder said.

The interviews, though purposely concentrated in urban areas as a result of China's large urban populations, focused on the disparity between urban and rural consumer habits, he said.

The increasingly shifting demands, growing prosperity and mindset of the Chinese people is not only encouraging, but interesting, he said, when seen through the results of scientific polling.

For instance, the poll found 90 percent of Chinese households owned a television, a figure most Americans would underestimate, he said.

Burkholder credited the 18- to 29-year-old Chinese population with changing economic atmosphere and market environment.

"The younger Chinese values are different from those of their elders," he said. "They're expressing a tremendous optimism."

A growing number of Chinese want to "live life to their own tastes" rather than striving for riches or align-

ing with the socialistic view of giving all for the good of society, Burkholder said.

Fifty-one percent of Chinese college graduates polled said their ideal lifestyle was one tailored to their own unique tastes, he said.

Burkholder said the survey showed young Chinese people favor urban lifestyles. Chinese cities and their residents are becoming more cosmopolitan, more fashion-conscious and more appealing to the young Chinese, he said.

Many Chinese also are expecting a higher quality of life in their country. The survey showed Chinese approved of their country's quality of life as often as Americans approve of their own.

Sarah Shaw, a sophomore environmental studies major, said she found motivated youth a positive force in the Chinese economy which would also enact great cultural changes.

"The Chinese have been known for their Confucian work ethic and altruism," she said. "Now with their optimism and ideas on living life by (their) own means, they're becoming more like Westerners."

# Business bill snubbed; senators await respect

BY BRIAN CARLSON  
Senior Reporter

Legislature

Irked by what they perceive as a lack of respect for the Legislature among some of the state's business leaders, state senators again delayed consideration of LB939 on Wednesday.

The Legislature voted 33-9 to move the bill, which would extend the Quality Jobs Act from final reading back to select file. The vote could delay the bill's passage until late in the 1998 session, if it is passed at all.

The bill, sponsored by Sen. Pam Brown of Omaha and supported by many business leaders, would allow businesses an extra two years to qualify for wage benefit credits under the Quality Jobs Act.

Several senators said they supported the bill but weren't prepared to vote for it Wednesday because they objected to recent comments by some business leaders.

A group of business leaders, frustrated because it feels the Legislature has moved too slowly in passing tax breaks to promote business development, has formed the Business Summit.

The group has said if the Legislature is unable to pass tax relief measures, it would seek to control state spending and taxing through a ballot initiative.

"It's a sad day in Nebraska when a policy seems laudable, enhances the population's ability to make money and increases the economic boom going on in this state, and we are told as a body that we are inept, stupid and overspending," Sen. Deb Suttle of Omaha said.

Sen. Don Wesley of Lincoln said the business leaders treated the Legislature disrespectfully and spurned offers by state senators to discuss their differences.

"We're not the ones throwing rocks," he said. "In fact, we have

been extending olive branches. "But in response, rocks are being thrown back at us."

The motion to return the measure to select file was made by Sen. Ernie Chambers of Omaha, who urged senators to remember that "we are not at the beck and call of the business community."

Wednesday's vote was the second time this spring the Legislature has delayed a final vote on LB939. On Feb. 19, senators voted to bracket the bill until Wednesday.

Speaker Doug Kristensen of Minden removed the bill from the Legislature's agenda after the vote. The issue, he said, was not the bill's content but the proper respect that should be shown to the Legislature.

But Sen. Dave Maurstad of Beatrice urged senators to vote on the bill's merits. The body shouldn't waste its time by delaying passage of a bill because members felt they had been shown disrespect, he said.

If senators objected strongly to the business leaders tactics, they should simply vote the bill down, he said.

"If LB939 is not the issue, then let's move on," he said. "Let's lay it on the line."

Brown said she couldn't control the actions of business leaders but still felt the bill would benefit the state's economy.

"This is not about one business group, but about whether this is good policy," she said.

The Quality Jobs Act currently in state statute allows wage benefit credits for companies that, within five years, invest in at least \$50 million of qualified property and hire 500 workers or invest in \$100 million of qualified property and hire 250 workers. LB939 would allow businesses seven years to meet these requirements.

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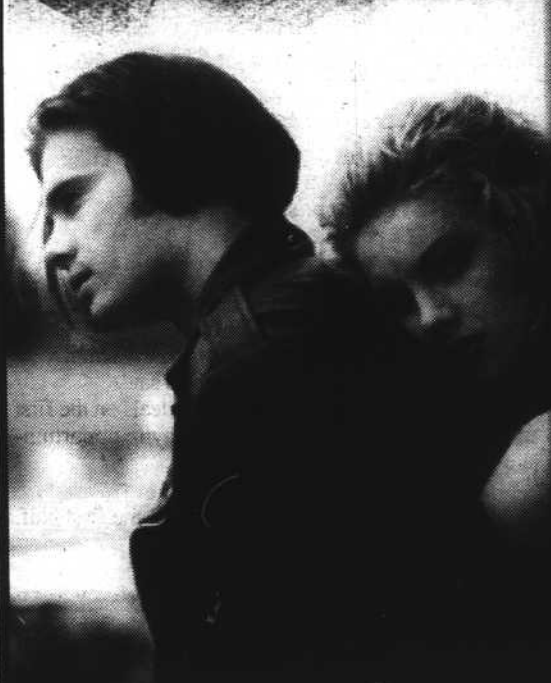
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