

Kerrey won't run in 2000 presidential race

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Cold War defense restructuring, health care, education and children's issues.

He vowed to be actively involved in the 2000 race and encouraged candidates to address the country's most serious issues. But he acknowledged this may be difficult when he is not in the race.

"That was the strongest argument for me to run - that there are a number of things that even though I'm staying in the arena and fighting for them, are not going to be addressed," he said.

Kerrey said a future bid for president, perhaps in 2004, is possible.

Although Kerrey said he concluded that the Senate was the best place for him to provide leadership in 2000 and beyond, he acknowledged other factors contributed to his decision not to pursue the presidency.

Kerrey said Vice President Al Gore, now considered the front-runner for the Democratic nomination, was not unbeatable. But the formidable candidacy expected from Gore was "a factor."

The timing of the presidential race in 2000, when Kerrey's Senate term expires, also worked against a Kerrey candidacy. Had Kerrey mounted a presidential bid, he would have relinquished his Senate seat.

"God and the people of Nebraska willing, my calling is to continue serving as a United States senator,"

he said.

Legally, Kerrey could have run for both the presidency and the Senate in 2000, but he said that would be unethical.

Former Sen. James Exon, who attended the gathering of Kerrey supporters, said the group was supportive of Kerrey's decision.

"There was a general consensus that Bob Kerrey made the right decision under the circumstances," he said. "We were happy that he made the decision to continue his outstanding service for Nebraska in the Senate."

Anne Boyle, chairwoman of the Nebraska Democratic Party, said she was pleased Kerrey would continue to serve the state in the Senate and provide leadership on pressing issues such as Social Security reform.

Kerrey's decision to seek re-election increases the chances the Nebraska Democratic Party will hold onto its last remaining statewide-elected public office.

Following Mike Johanns' victory in this year's governor's race, Republicans in 1999 will control the governor's office, one U.S. Senate seat, all statewide elective offices in state government and all three U.S. Congressional seats.

At the same time, Kerrey's supporters were disappointed that the timing wasn't right for a presidential bid, Boyle said.

"I would have to say we are a little disappointed," she said. "We know him best as somebody who's

not always going to follow polls, and we need that in our president."

One person who encouraged Kerrey to run for president during Sunday's meeting was James Martin Davis, an Omaha attorney and Democratic candidate for Congress in 1996.

Davis, like Kerrey a Vietnam War veteran, said he urged Kerrey to run because he was "a hero."

"At this juncture in American history, we really need somebody like Bob Kerrey," he said. "Historians and sociologists are all saying we have an absence of heroes in America. We wanted to share Bob Kerrey with the rest of the country."

Steve Jarding, Kerrey's national political director, said Kerrey's decision was the right one considering what he would have given up if unsuccessful.

"You can't delude yourself in this business," he said. "This was an all-or-none decision, and I think the decision was right."

Had Kerrey not been up for re-election in 2000, the decision to run for president would have been easier, but not certain, he said.

Jarding said Kerrey would have been a strong candidate and could have defeated Gore or other Democratic opponents. The decision was disappointing in that sense, he said.

"I'm a little bit disappointed," he said. "I think Bob Kerrey ought to be president of the United States. I think he has a vision for this country."

U.S. trade policy critiqued

BY BRIAN CARLSON
Staff writer

OMAHA - Expanding free trade can improve the lives of people worldwide, but U.S. policy must protect those whose livelihoods are threatened by rapid economic change, economic experts agreed Saturday.

The panelists, participating in an international economics conference sponsored by Sen. Bob Kerrey's political action committee, generally agreed free trade helps most people, but can cause short-term pain for those whose jobs are moved by free trade.

Kerrey moderated three panel discussions whose participants included Omaha billionaire Warren Buffett, former Labor Secretary Robert Reich, Harvard economist Jeffrey Sachs and other well-known economic and political thinkers.

Reich said that although the U.S. economy is in its best shape in 30 years, with relatively low unemployment and inflation, average Americans are growing skeptical of free trade policies. A Wall Street Journal poll found that 58 percent of respondents thought free trade was bad for Americans' economic well-being.

Free trade has gained momentum

in recent years, with the implementation of the North American Free Trade Agreement and the ongoing development of World Trade Organization policies to govern international trade.

But a gap divides the ideas of the political elite who support free trade and the views of ordinary Americans, he said. Reich attributed this to the fear that Americans will lose jobs to countries where companies pay lower wages, leaving laid-off American workers with few job options.

Buffett agreed with Reich that free trade policies have downsides.

"Competition in capitalism is brutal, and there are going to be dislocations and losers. We really need policies that take care of people who lose jobs through no fault of their own."

At a time when growing globalization stands alongside the threat of worldwide recession, the United States must be a strong leader in the world economy, said Ted Sorensen, former special counsel to President John F. Kennedy.

"We can't have it both ways," he said. "We can't continue to lead the world politically if we retreat from the world economically."

"A Nebraska farmer can be far more threatened by a bank failure in Tokyo today than he would have been by a bank failure in Toledo, Ohio, during the Great Depression."

Master plans still need work, NU regents say

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and renovate research and academic areas, university officials said.

NU President Dennis Smith said if regents were concerned about retention rates and the national rankings of the university's campuses, they needed to look at making the improvements recommended by the plans.

UNL recently fell to the third tier from the second tier in the latest U.S. News and World Report undergraduate rankings.

"We need to invest in people and provide the space necessary," Smith said.

To do this, Smith said, the university needs to keep up with its peer institutions and other top universities and colleges in the country.

Regent Chuck Hassebrook of Walthill said focus on Nebraskans' needs didn't seem to be the plans' priority.

"I think a campus plan is a vision of where the university is going," Hassebrook said. "The vision I see that is troubling me is that it's a vision of the university going in the direction that places emphasis on prestige."

But, what the campuses look like plays a part in the mindset of prospective and present students, UNL Chancellor James Moeser said.

Moeser said the organization of campus needs to show the university has

a strategy for continuous improvement. The university is setting design guidelines to follow when renovating and constructing facilities.

Regent Drew Miller of Papillion said adding classroom space to UNL was not necessary. The university doesn't effectively use the space it has, he said.

Before discussion began on UNL's plan, Koller said classroom space was well-used and generally in excellent condition, but some areas need improvement.

Regents were skeptical of the overall costs of implementing the plans, focusing mostly on UNL's.

Hassebrook asked Koller for an estimated price of UNL's plans.

"We don't have an estimate number for that, but we can estimate \$200 million, roughly," Koller said.

Moeser said the construction would be completed with state and private funds.

Some renovations are being done under LB1100, a bill that allotted \$5.5 million to renovate buildings on the four NU campuses in the next 10 years. The university will provide matching funds to supplement the state's contribution.

Some projects under UNL's Master Plan include a grassy corridor that will extend from Memorial Stadium to the Beadle Center, improvements to the Bob Devaney Sports Center and a new recreation center to be built on East Campus.

Sorority, regents negotiate Alpha Chi Omega supporters debate house's future

BY LINDSAY YOUNG
Senior staff writer

A plan that could ultimately knock down a sorority house brought about 70 Alpha Chi Omega Sorority members and supporters to the regents meeting Saturday.

The women came to negotiate with the NU Board of Regents on an agreement giving them say in details concerning the construction of a new house on campus.

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Master Plan calls for a grassy corridor that would replace Vine Street and extend from Memorial Stadium to the Beadle Center.

As a result of that proposal, which has not yet been approved, the university would need to demolish both the Alpha Chi Omega Sorority house and the vacated Sigma Alpha Mu Fraternity house.

The Alpha Chi house could be rebuilt a couple of blocks south at 16th and R streets.

Chancellor James Moeser pledged not to use eminent domain to acquire the land where the house is.

If UNL took the land in that way, the university would pay only fair market value for the land, which would compensate for less than half of the cost needed to build a new house, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs James Griesen said.

That would leave the sorority reaching for money it may not have, he said.

It is estimated it would cost from \$2 million to \$2.7 million to build a new house. The sorority would receive only \$1 million in fair market value from the old house.

"They expressed that concern to us saying, 'We don't want to go extinct,'" Griesen said.

A proposed amendment would give members more say in looking at issues such as cost of a new house,

"I have a hard time in relocating a building as a priority."

CHUCK HASSEBROOK
NU regent

available parking and a construction timeline.

If an agreement that satisfies both the university and the sorority is not made before Aug. 1, 1999, the house will stay put, said Mark Hunzeker, the sorority's attorney.

A few of the regents said they didn't like the proposed relocation of the sorority house.

Many said they didn't see moving the house for Memorial Mall as a priority over projects that could provide additional classroom space.

Regent Drew Miller of Papillion said he was not in favor of the move if Memorial Mall was to be implemented.

Regent Chuck Hassebrook of Walthill agreed.

"I second Miller's statement," Hassebrook said. "I have a hard time in relocating a building as a priority. I don't see that as being a priority."

But Moeser said the Memorial Mall was a priority because it would not only make the campus more pedestrian friendly, but it also would add to the campus aesthetic.

That, he said, was an important part of a university learning environment.

"I'm not anticipating building green space for its own sake."

Thursday set for impeachment activities

WASHINGTON (AP) - The full House will take up the four articles of impeachment against President Clinton on Thursday in what is expected to be a long and contentious debate. House Republican aides say final votes could spill into Friday.

The Judiciary Committee, which passed the articles, first must write a final report on its inquiry. House rules call for a waiting period of two legislative days - Sunday doesn't count - before the articles can come to the floor.

That means the articles will be available Wednesday, the same day that Speaker Newt Gingrich has notified lawmakers to return to Washington.

Republican and Democratic leaders plan party caucuses that day, with debate on impeachment to begin Thursday morning.

Incoming Speaker Bob Livingston has tapped Rep. Ray Lahood, R-Ill., to preside over the debate. Judiciary committee chairman Henry Hyde of Illinois will act as GOP floor manager, and ranking Democrat John Conyers of Michigan is expected to manage the debate for his party.

Hyde said Sunday that he expects a "prolonged debate ... I would be for expanding the time considerably so everyone can talk who wants to."

They do not plan a vote on censure.

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