

# Kerrey, Hagel differ on Clinton's address

BY BRIAN CARLSON  
Staff writer

Nebraska's Senate delegation offered contrasting opinions on the policy agenda laid out Tuesday by President Clinton in his State of the Union address.

In telephone interviews with the Daily Nebraskan, Sen. Bob Kerrey had mostly praise for his fellow Democrat's address, while Republican Sen. Chuck Hagel attacked nearly every aspect of it.

Kerrey said he welcomed continuing good news about the economy, prospects for paying down the national debt and a specific Social Security proposal from the president.

"I thought it was a good speech," he said. "It was good to hear the emphasis on our nation's economic growth, which will be so vital if we are to be able to solve a lot of other problems."

With projected budget surpluses of \$4 trillion over the next 15 years, the United States has a chance to service much of its debt and reduce burdensome interest payments, Kerrey said.

By setting aside 60 percent of the surpluses for Social Security and 16 percent for Medicare, the government could generate enough savings to reduce the level of publicly held debt to its lowest level since 1917, Clinton said during his address. By Kerrey's estimates, that could save \$250-\$270 billion in interest payments — a helpful legacy to leave the next generation, he said.

"That's a gift of which I'll be quite proud," he said.

Although Kerrey's own Social Security proposal differs from the president's, he said he welcomed the president's proposal. Clinton shares Kerrey's commitment to honoring Social Security's commitments and continuing to provide old-age security, Kerrey said.

Kerrey's proposal would allow workers to invest a portion of their Social Security taxes into private investments. Clinton proposed that \$2.7 trillion from budget surpluses be used to fund future Social Security shortfalls, with a quarter of that money invested in private markets by the federal government.

Although Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan said

Wednesday that large government investments in the stock market could hurt the economy, Kerrey disagreed.

"I wouldn't reject (government investment) out of hand," he said. "As for Alan Greenspan saying it would hurt the economy — I'm doubtful of that."

Kerrey also said he applauded Clinton's education proposals, particularly his commitment to college education and early childhood education.

Kerrey said he was satisfied with Clinton's remarks on agriculture and increased defense spending. He applauded Clinton's call for increased funding for Russian nuclear disarmament, but said the president should have gone further and called for reductions to fewer than 6,000 warheads each for the United States and Russia.

The Senate trial of President Clinton should not distract the country from addressing its most pressing issues, Kerrey said.

"We need to keep our nose to the grindstone and continue to do the work we were elected to do," he said.

Hagel, meanwhile, said he counted 20 specific references to new spending proposals, as well as 24 new

government regulation proposals and no broad-based tax cuts in Clinton's address.

"I think the president missed a very significant opportunity," he said. "It was a big spending, big government speech."

Hagel said he was "absolutely opposed" to government investment in private markets because of the potential for political abuses that could hurt the economy.

He said the government should introduce privatization into the Social Security program and allow individuals more opportunity to make their own investments.

Clinton's proposal would amount to a "quick fix" that would only defer the program's long-term financing problems. That could be disastrous for future Congresses working without the luxury of a budget surplus, he said.

Hagel also said he opposed Clinton's education proposals, which would require schools to adhere to guidelines on teacher qualifications, classroom discipline and academic standards to receive federal funds.

"I'm completely opposed to the idea that local school districts should be clients of the federal government

with all these new regulations," he said.

Hagel praised Clinton for his call for increased defense spending, but said Clinton's neglect of the military in recent years had created many of today's needs.

Further increases will be necessary to fund future military operations and pay adequate salaries, he said.

Hagel disagreed with Clinton's call for increased direct payments to farmers in the midst of an agricultural downturn. Instead, the president should seek to open overseas markets for agricultural products, he said.

"The real answer is coming up with fast-track authority, opening international markets and stopping these crazy unilateral economic sanctions," he said.

On Tuesday, Clinton became the first impeached president ever to deliver a State of the Union address. Hagel said congressional Republicans were wise to attend the speech despite the awkwardness.

However, in the midst of his Senate trial, Clinton should have submitted his State of the Union message to Congress in writing rather than appear on Capitol Hill, he said.

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## Journalism students visit capital

Thirteen residents of the journalism learning community traveled to Washington, D.C., to learn about their future careers.

BY AIMEE GREEN  
Staff writer

While most students slept comfortably in their beds one morning last week, a handful of students prepared to take a trip to work.

At 7 a.m. on Friday, part of the journalism learning community on the ninth and 10th floors of Schramm Residence Hall boarded a plane for Washington, D.C.

The 13 students — along with Schramm Residence Director Keith Zaborowski, advertising professor Nancy Mitchell and broadcasting professor Jerry Renaud — spent five days touring the nation's capital and learning about their future careers.

Housing Director Doug Zatechka said he was pleased the learning community took the trip.

"They get exposure to the practice of the profession instead of learning about it from a book," he said.

The idea for the trip came about last semester when Schramm 10 student

assistant Ka'Ron Johnson told Zaborowski about his idea for a trip to Washington.

The College of Journalism and Mass Communications and the residence hall organized the details.

Students had to pay for food and transportation in Washington. The rest was paid for by the residence hall and the journalism college.

In October, all students who were interested in going on the trip wrote an essay. Out of the 40 to 45 students in the community, eight were to be chosen.

But after only 13 people signed up, organizers decided to take them all.

Freshman advertising major Nichole Lake said she thought only 13 people signed up for the trip because most students did not want to write the essay.

The journalism learning community is in its first year, and the communities in general began four years ago.

Learning communities were initiated as a means of making students feel comfortable on campus, said Don Gregory, director of General Studies.

Much of the students' academic activity, including advising, studying and taking classes, is held in the hall.

Lake said she was glad she joined the journalism community.

"There's a certain bond ... everybody knows everybody. They support each other," she said.

Gregory said the trip was only one

of the perks of living in a learning community.

"The trip is just the icing on the cake," he said.

The community's Washington tour included a visit to the Holocaust Museum, the National Archives and the Museum, an interactive museum showing how and why news is made.

In addition to taking a tour of the usual landmarks, the students also received a behind-the-scenes tour of USA Today.

They watched the employees put together the next day's paper. Then when the paper came out, they recognized the articles.

Seven of the students also witnessed history in the making. After a two-hour wait in line, they watched 15 minutes of the impeachment trial of President Clinton.

Lake said being able to see the trial was the most memorable part of the trip.

She said it was interesting to hear what the people in Washington said about the trial and the coming State of the Union address.

"All they were talking about was President Clinton," she said.

Zaborowski said the trip benefited students who took it.

"The purpose of the trip is to take what they're learning in class and tie it in with the real world," Zaborowski said. "D.C. was successful in doing that."

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