## The Buck Ends Here

By IVAN D.E. BEAUMONT

The other day someone asked:

"Can anyone attend a meeting of the Nebraska City Board of Education?"

You bet your fashion boots anyone can, sweetheart. School board meetings are open to the general public and Bill Berger, president of the Nebraska City board, never fails but what he offers all visitors a chance to speak.

Ironically, few patrons attend school board meetings. Taxpayers spend more money on schools than on City government, but too few people take the time to attend meetings.

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Nebraska City's school board used to meet in the old high school where Safeway is now located. On occasion during the hot summer months board meetings were held on the east steps. Frank Erwin will remember those days.

There was talk at one time of the school district renting property downtown and locating the board and superintendent's offices in the business district

However, the board decided to spend its money elsewhere and moved into the basement of the old Greggsport school.

Meetings are held regularly the second Monday of each month at 7 30 p.m. Often the meeting times change during the summer months because of daylight savings time

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We hestitate to admit it, but we enjoyed those long-winded smoke-filled room meetings of the board in the old high school.

One of our favorite people, the late Edgar Lightbody, was superintendent in those years. Edgar and I used to go to the Transport Inn for a cup of coffee after the board meetings. That was generally pretty near midnight.

Edgar was an accommodating man I often leaned on him quite heavily to keep me abreast of school business that I just plain didn't understand

Those were also the years before Clemmy Holmes provided the superintendent with a sparkling new Mercury to drive Edgar had a 1939 or 1940 Chrysler It was some car.

There was a narrow brick drive from the school west to South Tenth Street Edgar was an expert at backing that old Chrysler down that narrow drive during the pitch black night

I often wondered how he did it without banging into trash cans stored along the building

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I also miss the old "school beat" when I used to call on Edgar every morning. Rose Gilson, the school cook, murdered any attempt at dieting with the aroma of her rolls sweeping up the steps to Edgar's office.

That was almost an every-morning stop to check in with the school superintendent. Mrs John (Mary Ritterbusch) Freeman, was Edgar's secretary, office manager, bookkeeper, bell-ringer, public address announcer and righthand gal.

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Edgar fussed because of the cost of night sports. He told me often that high school sports are for the parents, not for the kids. "We could hold them in the afternoon for the kids," he said.

He had one theory that always "got me" — measles and what to do.

Edgar was in favor of letting the kids stay in school. "They're all going to get them anyway; we just as well get it over with."

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Oh, he was a dilly. He was also a truant officer. And it wasn't unusual to see him around places during the day where hooky-players might be hiding.

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There are a number of things coming up this week that deserve your attention.

Ruben Rathe is all fired up over the movie on drugs that will be screened Sunday night at Senior High. There is no admission. The film lasts about an hour

Ruben has viewed the film He suggests adult attendance.

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Congratulations: To Les Carr on his 25th year with Bankers Life Company of Nebraska. We know a little about Les since we did a story on him as one of the few survivors of the Bataan Death March of WWII.

Congratulations: To Terry McElroy, son of Mrs Wilma McElroy, who will receive his Eagle Scout badge Sunday at a program at 3 p.m., at the Methodist church.

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Verne Jones of Otoe County National Bank, said he was very pleased with the 60 reservations for the bank's farm program set for Tuesday at the Pioneer Theater.

And, Tuesday night the Elks will host law enforcement officers from this area at a dinner. This is the second annual appreciation dinner. It was such a success last year that Exalted Ruler Ron Eiserman asked Bill Gangel and Mike McCartan to take chairmanship again.

Also, on Tuesday night, a special program on drugs will be offered at Senior High. Nebraska City school parents can feel pretty proud of their youngsters as a result of s survey on drugs taken at the schools.

This program is sponsored by the school administration. "We wish that every parent in the district would attend," Principal Carl Fielder said

## MINNESOTA EYES UNICAMERAL

# Public hearings liked

By ODELL Hanson
Associated Press Writer

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — "Nebraska Legislature Has Blowing Dust, But Not In Stereo," said one headline

"Unicameral—No Place To Hide," said another

The lines appeared over recent features in the Minneapolis Star, written by associate editorial editor Stephen Alnes after a visit to Lincoln to scrutinize Nebraska's unique one-house system of lawmaking.

To Nebraskans steeped in the one-house mode—and suspecting at times they may not be seeing the forest for the trees—the views of outsiders naturally hold interest.

It's the kind of an urge scottish poet Robert Burns had in mind when he penned the now famous lines. "Oh would some power the giftie give us, to see ourselves as others see us"

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Minnesota's interest, at the moment, stems from the fact it has a special commission, under the chairmanship of former Gov. Elmer L. Anderson, examining the obsolete state constitution and what to do about it. There has been talk of adopting the Nebraska approach, a consideration fanned by a recent federal court ruling cutting the size of the existing two houses in Minnesota to the point where some outstate districts become rather large.

Alnes said he already was an advocate of the one-house legislature and "a quick trip to lincoln to view the Nebraska Legislature in session did nothing to discourage my enthusiasm for unicameralism."

One of the writer's findings dealt with the "openness" of the lawmaking process, due in part, he found, "to the unicameral's rules and traditions and not specifically to a one-house operation."

"Just about every bill of any significance, for example, gets a public hearing and a week's notice must be given," he noted

"A work sheet issued each day tells where every bill is Legislators must have printed copies of a bill in its form for at least a day before voting on final passage. Record votes are easy to get and so on."

The "openness" feature was highlighted earlier in an evaluation of various legislatures by the Citizens Conference on State Legislatures That agency ranked Nebraska first among all states in accountability, based on such factors as simplicity of form, public access to information and lack of concentration of power in a few hands

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Alnes said he found some concern among unicameral members and watchers at the percentage of introduced bills which get passed—an average of some 60 per cent in recent years

"A good case can be made, I think, that such a completion record is evidence that the unicameral is more responsible to need," he said. But he found those who worry that bills get passed simply because they lack opposition

"I think we should begin to move in the direction of assuming a bill should not live unless its supporters can convince the majority it ought to pass," Sen. Richard Marvel of Hastings told the visitor.

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Alnes said he found among some of his interviewees "the usual cynicism about the influence that lobbyists have on the legislature. It's just about impossible to determine whether that influence is greater or lesser than on other legislatures."

Alnes quoted Omaha Sen. Ernest Chambers as suggesting the problems of the body come not from its size or its structure but from the people serving in it Chambers said there is a "lot of wind-blowing and dust-raising and very seldom do we get down to the issues."

Which led Alnes to conclude:

"Nothing unusual about that, but Nebraskans are fortunate they don't have to endure the wind-blowing and dust-raising in stereo, as do other states."

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—poem—

—Nebraska's unique legislature

—Is studied around the nation.

—But flattery for the system

—Falls short of imitation.

## Attorney to assist Solons

LINCOLN, Neb (AP) — The chairman of a special investigating committee investigating an alleged attempt to bribe Sen John De Camp of Neligh Friday was authorized to contact a private attorney to begin the investigation

That authorization was given Sen Jerome Warner of Waverly by a seven-man committee set up by the legislature to investigate De Camp's report he had been offered "what I guess some people might term a bribe"

The offer was allegedly made to De Camp if he would change his vote on a motion to override Gov J.J Exon's veto of a personal property tax exemption plan

Warner introduced a resolution Thursday, adopted on a 41-0 vote, that the reported offer to De Camp be investigated. A special seven-man committee was chosen, of which Warner was elected chairman.

Atty Gen. Clarence A.H. Meyer told a meeting of the Committee on Committees Thursday was burdened with work and suggested the investigating committee hire a lawyer from private practice.

Warner was authorized by the committee Friday to begin searching for an attorney to spearhead the investigation. He said he would begin working over the weekend.

"We can't do anything until we get an attorney," Warner said.

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**"Old Whitey"**

The horse "Old Whitey" is associated with President Zachary Taylor. When Taylor moved into the White House, he had his favorite mount, Whitey, accompany him. When Taylor was buried, Old Whitey followed his master's body in the funeral procession.

# Winter? 'Snow Joke in Mexico

By TOM TIEDE

MEXICO, N.Y.—(NEA)—Last century a merchant named George Scriba had a nice dream for this town and the region at the bottom of Lake Ontario. He purchased heavy amounts of property here with the idea of making it, via the nearby St. Lawrence Seaway, the largest, most populous city in the world

Alas, it didn't happen. Probably because Scriba got cold feet. He must have discovered the terrible truth about this area. Mexico, N.Y., is not like Mexico, Mexico, or even Mexico, Mo. Mexico, N.Y., is, in the words of one of its shivering citizens, "the gad-damndest place I've seen for snow in 82 years on the gad-damned earth"

Snow kidding It's unbelievable here Last November it snowed 18 inches, there were 27 more in December and (gulp) an additional 139 in January. Then, couple of weeks later, it *really* came down. In 48 hours the region was socked with 54 inches—repeat, nearly five feet of it—and nothing could be heard but oh-no's

What's more, to hear the residents tell it, this year has been nothing. "I remember back in 1966," says Mayor Robert Gray. "Now that was something! We had one spell there, three days, when it snowed 111 inches. My God, you couldn't believe it. We had this one attorney who wasn't a very good driver and so he just got close behind the car in front of him and followed. He went on that way for miles. Pretty soon the car in front turned and stopped The attorney got out and said, 'Wha'd you stop for?' The guy in front said, 'I'm in my driveway, that's why' Not long after that, the attorney moved some place else"



Mayor Robert Gray
*Back in 1966, 111 inches*

Wherever the attorney moved, it almost has to be better than here. Mayor Gray says Mexico gets between 200 and 250 inches of snow every year—that's twice as much as Fairbanks, Alaska, and five times the annual fall in Anchorage.

This is not the snowiest place on earth. Twenty-six feet fell in northern Iran recently Silver Lake, Colo., once received 76 inches in 24 hours, and Mt Rainier in Washington has received 1,000 inches in a single year.

But for sheer, stubborn, consistent gluck, Mexico, and most of Oswego County, NY, does pretty good Or bad Right now the four-foot fence posts at George Parson's dairy farm have disappeared Mrs Elroy Barnes has to put a red flag out so the school bus can see her mobile home Downtown shoppers walk along plowed sidewalks that resemble bobsled chutes And, folks say, some of the cars that got stuck in the most recent blizzard won't be seen again until spring

Meteorologists, of course, can explain the whole phenomenon very clearly. Robert Sykes of Oswego says it has to do with moisture-laden air coming down from Lake Ontario Then there's the friction of the earth. And something called orographics. Also convective currents. That sort of thing. Ah, yes. Well, anyway, Sykes adds, short while back meteorologists from along the East Coast gathered in Oswego to mull the whole business over—and, you guessed it, they got snowed in.

To be sure, snowed in is a way of life in this region. Even for people who don't understand orographics. Housewives like Mrs. George Parsons have to hoard food each year, "like we were squirrels," against the inevitable periods when the roads close. Mayor Gray keeps a pair of snowshoes in his den, "and I darn well use them." And the city's small Civil Defense headquarters is stocked with two dozen cots and blankets to take care of the annual stranded motorists.

Some people, perhaps, enjoy the whole thing. Snowmobilers flock to the area—"driving from bar to bar," says the mayor Kids look forward to emergency vacations from school Frank Rose welcomes the storms because he makes his living plowing out driveways. And merchants say that there is a dime or two extra each year from the tourists—"these nuts"—who come m just to look.

But for the most part. frost to the armpits is very discouraging. One-fifth of Mexico's $100,000 budget is spent on snow removal Conservationists are hollering because road crews are dumping salt-sopped snow into the area's rivers. And, says Mayor Gray: "Man, is it monotonous? Talk about cabin fever. I think it would be great if the people could get out and ski or something But, wouldn't you know it, this is all flat land here—there isn't a mountain here for miles"

So it is in Mexico this winter and every winter Mail is being placed on icebergs. about where the letterboxes are buried Children are runnig aroud wid colds in da heds. And everybody is wondering, once again, what old George Scriba had between his ears. "B-B-Biggest city in the world?" says the mayor. "Our p-p-population is 1,500 That's only 30 more p-p-people than we had a century ago."

(NEWSPAPER ENTERPRISE ASSN)

## Birthday comes every four years

AVOCA — (N-P) — "How do you celebrate your birthday when it is February 29?" Well you really only celebrate the actual day every four years, Mrs John Norris, Avoca, a leap year day gal reported.

This year was the year to observe the occasion. Mrs William Thornton took Mrs Norris to Omaha where she reported she had a delightful birthday with her granddaughter, Mrs Phil Rhodes and family. Also helping her to observe the occasion were Mrs Paul Wolph, Mrs Lester Heebner, Mr and Mrs Tom Akeson and Mr and Mrs Merton Norris.

Mrs Norris was born on a farm east of Weeping Water on Feb. 29, 1892, and has lived in the Avoca and Weeping Water communities all of her life. She and her late husband observed their golden wedding anniversary in 1965.

She has two sons, Merton, Avoca, and Clifford, LaHabra, Calif., three grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Mrs Norris has been a member of the United Methodist church of Weeping Water for 67 years. She was a church school teacher for over 46 years. She was recording steward for 40 years and has served in other offices of the church and in the Women's Society of Christian Service. She is a member of PEO Chapter BT at Weeping Water.

## Penney company reports big gain

J C. Penney Company, Inc reported today an 18.9 per cent gain in net income for the 1971 fiscal year on the basis of preliminary and unaudited figures.

For the 52 weeks ended January 29, the department store and catalog chain had record net earnings of $135.7 million against $114.1 million for the prior year. This amounted to primary net income per share of $2.46 compared with $2.14 in 1970. Fully diluted earnings per share totaled $2.43 in 1971 against $2.08 the previous year.

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**Mirages**

Mirages are formed by the distortion of light as it passes through air of high or unusual density to produce a displaced image, according to Encyclo aedia Britannica.


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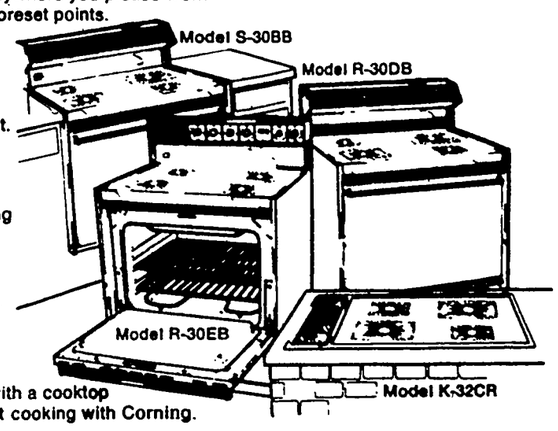
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