



## Cost of influencing Congress skyrockets

WASHINGTON (AP) — Lobbyists spent at least \$12,500,000 trying to influence Congress in the second quarter of this year, an increase of nearly 30 percent over the first three months, according to congressional records.

The cost of persuasion could go even higher in the third quarter of 1983. The preliminary total for that period is \$12,525,000, an amount that is 31 percent above the corresponding preliminary figure for the second quarter.

Because many of the 6,000 registered lobbyists fail to file their required reports on time, the final third quarter total will not be known until early next year.

The spending in both quarters reflected intense battles over bills to restrict natural gas and prohibit gender bias in insurance rates.

Not included in either quarter's figures is the more than \$1 million the American Telephone & Telegraph Co. says it has poured into its battle against legislation to soften the financial impact of the breakup of AT&T on residential customers.

The spending for the second quarter — averaging out to \$12,500 for each senator and representative — was \$14,000 higher than the \$13,500 reported by individuals, business groups and other organizations for the first quarter.

The insurance industry, operating through the Committee for Fair Insurance Rates, dominated the big spenders in the second- and third-quarter reports

filed with the House clerk and the Senate secretary.

The committee reported a total outlay of \$12,500,000 — \$10,500,000 in the second quarter and \$2,000,000 in the third — on pending legislation to outlaw the practice of charging different rates for men and women in the same age group.

The committee said the bulk of the money was spent on "grass roots advertising" and targeted mailings to voters in districts represented by lawmakers in the committees considering the anti-bias bill.

In July, the insurance industry paid the Senate restaurant \$1,500 for catering a Senate staff briefing in the Capitol.

The campaign is being financed by several dozen insurance companies. Big contributors include Aetna and Nationwide, \$125,000 each; Allstate, Cigna and St. Paul Fire and Marine, \$100,000 each; and Fireman's Fund, Travelers, Phoenix Mutual Life and U.S. Fidelity and Guaranty, \$75,000 each.

The National Gas Supply Association paid a consultant, Communications Management Inc., \$50,000 in the third quarter to wage its campaign to pass the decontrol bill. The report filed by the consultant said the money was spent largely on salaries, computer-generated lists and "volunteer work."

Communications Management reported spending \$14,100 on "travel, food, lodging, and entertainment," but it provided no details.

The spending by the insurance and gas industries has had inconclusive results. The decontrol and gender bills were still awaiting final action when Congress adjourned last Friday night.

Neither organization was the highest spender in the latest reports. This honor fell to the Free the Slave National Citizens Lobby, which reported spending \$82,413 in the second quarter.

The conservative group, which spent about two-thirds of the total on printing and distribution, says its goals are restricting federal authority, deregulating the economy, attaining a balanced budget, and returning to the gold standard.

For the first time this year Common Cause, the self-described citizens lobby, did not top the spending charts. Its \$446,012, however, was higher than its previous three reports.

Other "conservative" groups reporting spending of more than \$100,000 in the latest filings were Gun Owners Association of America Inc., \$101,040; Sierra Club, \$100,000; and National Peace Academy Campaign, \$100,000.

Also, American Petroleum Institute, \$92,144; Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms, \$74,000; and National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, \$100,000.

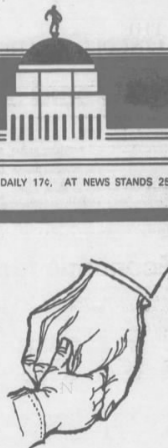
Also, Home Recording Rights Coalition, \$144,012; Alaska Lumber and Pulp Co. Inc., \$143,012; U.S. League of Savings Institutions \$142,000; AFL-CIO, \$138,000; National Rifle Association, \$126,000.

## Make a gesture of thanks and giving

Once again, The Lincoln Star invites readers to pause in this week of Thanksgiving to make a gesture of goodwill to a neighbor in our community. Hundreds responded last year. They generously contributed blankets, braces, eye glasses, walkers, wringer washers and their companionship to those in need.

Both those who gave and those who received found an added dimension in their celebration of Thanksgiving.

Please turn to Page 4 today for 27 stories and ways you can be a helping hand to a Nebraska neighbor. Thank you.



## Merging of arms talks urged

From The Associated Press

The U.S.-Soviet "Euro-missile" talks, finally deadlocked on the key question of whose weapons belong in the European nuclear equation, should now be merged with the negotiations on intermediate-range missiles, say leading Western arms control specialists.

"I was never very optimistic for the (Euro-missile) talks," said Lawrence Freedman, a noted British historian of the nuclear arms race. "They never should have been separated... from the strategic arms talks."

Freedman, war studies professor at King's College in London, was one of a half-dozen experts, including three former U.S. arms control chiefs, who gave

their views on the nuclear talks in interviews with The Associated Press.

His opinion was shared by two ex-directors of the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency — Gerard C. Smith and Paul C. Warnke — and by Sverre Lodgaard, who has studied the European missile standoff for the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute.

They and others who favor merging the two sets of talks in Geneva, Switzerland, say the negotiations on intermediate-range missiles in Europe, and the Strategic Arms Reduction Talks on long-range weapons — say it would give negotiators much more leeway in bargaining and trading off among weapons systems.

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In a civil suit filed earlier this month after an attempt to foreclose on the loan was made, Sayler-Robinson alleged she took out the loan at the behest of her employer and that

that those named conspired to deprive "creditors and depositors of their deposits, funds and claims."

Depositors and creditors, according to the suit papers, have sustained damages in an amount which may not now be ascertained with certainty, but which amount is in excess of \$13,900,000.

Named as defendants are S.E. Copple, his wife, Tekla, and their son, Marvin and Newt. Judith Driscoll, a secretary or former secretary of Marvin Copple, is named, as is Dana Sayler-Robinson, Newt Copple's former employee.

Other defendants include the Copple Family Trust and S.E. Copple as its trustee; Capital Beach Inc., the firm formed to develop and maintain the lake-side residential area in northwest Lincoln; S.E. Copple Investments Inc.; Dorothy Gartner; and Asyet unknown persons.

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## Miller sets Commonwealth deadline

By James Joyce

of The Lincoln Star

Interim state Banking Director John Miller disclosed Monday night he has imposed a deadline on himself for devising a plan for selling Commonwealth Savings Co.

"I think I can do it," he said. "I don't want to give you any false hopes or promises but I think I can do it."

Miller made the disclosure at a meeting of depositors attended by nearly 800 persons at Northeast High School in which he pleaded for them to have a little more patience.

After "two or three weeks," he said, if a plan cannot be devised he will publicly admit it.

The self-imposed deadline comes in the wake of increased pressure by some depositors for the time being the filing of lawsuits against the state and a petition drive to force the convening of a grand jury.

"Although 'actively aware of the pain and hurt you feel,' Miller told the depositors, for the time being these efforts are making his job, particularly the quest for a buyer, more difficult.

"The truth of the matter is you shouldn't have to spend your money to file lawsuits," he said. "That's my job, let me do it and if I don't then jump on me."

Miller and special assistant attorney general David Domina were the obvious stars of the two-hour meeting, the second such gathering of depositors in less than a week.

Echoing a similar theme, Domina urged the depositors to give Miller and other officials working on the Commonwealth problem time to work.

"John Miller and I do not yet concede that the money you had at Commonwealth is lost," he said.

## S.E. Copple faces civil suit, criminal charges

By George Hendrix

of The Lincoln Star

Commonwealth Savings Co. president S.E. Copple as of Monday evening faced both a felony criminal charge and an \$11 million civil suit in Lancaster County.

As those court actions were being filed amidst an increasing clamor for action by Commonwealth depositors, Copple's private whereabouts apparently remained unknown to authorities.

A single count criminal charge of receiving an improper loan was filed in Lancaster County Court Monday afternoon by Deputy County Attorney Richard Hantinger. The charge stems from an alleged breach of the Nebraska law on "insider" loans that occurred about 2½ years before Commonwealth failed on Nov. 1.

Hantinger said a warrant for Copple's arrest would be prepared Tuesday. Although "we don't know as of right now" Copple's exact location, Hantinger said, he is believed to be in Arizona.

As the criminal charge was being filed, the state Banking Department, as Commonwealth receiver, filed suit in Lancaster County District Court against Copple and other family members and former employees. The suit accuses the defendants of fraudulent banking and lending practices.

Special Assistant Attorney General David Domina, petitioning on behalf of Commonwealth depositors, further alleged in the suit

that those named conspired to deprive "creditors and depositors of their deposits, funds and claims."

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## Big Eight leaders' meet is step in cooperation

By Bob Reeves

of The Lincoln Star

Monday's talks among the leaders of six Big Eight universities could be the first step toward further cooperation among schools in the region, University of Nebraska President Ronald Riddick said.

Chancellors and presidents of all Big Eight schools were invited to the Lincoln meeting, and all but two schools took part in what Riddick termed "fraternal, though exploratory, discussions of possible expansion of student exchanges" among the eight institutions.

Student exchange programs are nothing new and could be increased, Riddick noted. However, the five agreed that each Big Eight university has an obligation within its state's borders to continue to maintain basic educational programs.

"It is very difficult to transplant an existing program, particularly if it is regarded as important to the welfare of the state — and by that I mean any state," he commented.

"As the needs and demands change, however, in the future there may well be new programs. I think we and I think we are of the mind that when such possibilities develop we will have the obligation to consult with all of the others in the hope we could avoid unnecessary duplication."

When asked if the proposed regional veterans college at Lincoln would fall into that category, Riddick said the school, planned to serve students from Nebraska, Montana, Wyoming and the Dakotas, is "not of the frame of reference."

Each of the other Big Eight states (Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma and Colorado) has its own veterans college already, the president pointed out. While NU has cooperatives agreements with some other states for veterans training, the Nebraska school is planned to meet the needs of the northern and western plains states.

He said the institutional heads discussed the possibility of having an outside consultant to study the potential for increased regional cooperation, but indicated there was no consensus for doing that in the near future.

"It's a possibility when we look ahead, but we have to bear in mind that in addition to the executive officers and academic officers of each institution, the governing bodies, legislatures and governors" in each state would have to agree to such a study, he said.

The leaders met for 2½ hours behind closed doors Monday and Tuesday in Lincoln. Their discussions when the Mid-America State University Association meets in January in Kansas City. Although Colorado is not a member of that group, its president has been invited to attend.

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## Inside

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Eight on All-Big 8 teams

Huskies Turner Gill, Mike Rozier, Irving Fryer, Dean Spinkhuizer, Mike Knox and Scott Raridon were named to both the UPI and AP All-Big Eight squads. NU's Bret Clark earned AP honors and Mark Traynowicz was named to the UPI team.

Sports, Page 13

Today's Corn

When photographs are friendly they show each other's careers.

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## Weather

Lincoln: Windy, 70 percent chance of showers toward morning. High in the upper 40s, then falling in the afternoon. Winds northeast at 15 to 25 mph. Windy, colder Tuesday night.

Eighty percent chance of rain changing to snow. Low in mid-20s. Cloudy, cold Wednesday. Chance of light snow. High around 30. (Weather digest, Page 18)

Index

Comics... 12 Sports... 12-13

Dear Abby... 12 Today's Events... 12

Life... 12 Weather... 12

Lincoln... 12 World News... 12

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