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All four state quarter designs are still under consideration

LINCOLN – All four design concepts for the state quarter that were forwarded to the U.S. Mint by the Nebraska State Quarter Design Committee are still under consideration, according to Nebraska Secretary of State John Gale, committee chairman.

He said some confusion has resulted from a news release issued Feb. 1 by the federal Citizens Coinage Advisory Committee, which advises the U.S. treasury secretary. Of the four concepts, the committee said it preferred two – Chief Standing Bear and Chimney Rock.

Another federal advisory group, the Committee on Fine Arts, reviewed the Nebraska concepts and expressed a preference for the one depicting the State Capitol. The fourth concept depicts the Sower statue atop the Capitol.

All four concepts recommended by the Nebraska committee are still being considered, and all four will be forwarded to Treasury Secretary John Snow for his review, Gale said.

He said the powers of the two federal advisory committees are limited to providing opinions.

“I’m relieved to get the clarification that the advisory committees do not have any authority to eliminate any Nebraska design,” Gale said.

“After our Nebraska committee worked over a year with terrific public input to select our final four designs that met all criteria of the U.S. Mint, it would have been profoundly disappointing to have an outside group make choice decisions,” he said. “That should only be a call of the treasury secretary and ultimately our governor.”

The Nebraska committee continues to work with the U.S. Mint on developing artwork for each of the four concepts.

Gov. Dave Heineman is expected to make the final selection of the quarter design by spring 2005, and the Mint will issue the Nebraska quarter in spring 2006.

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