

the development of a complete safety center at Kearney State College because they could see that this program could do a great deal for the state of Nebraska. A state safety center concept must be attached to an institution of higher learning. Academic programs must be offered to train people for safety positions in industry and government. So many areas have been previously neglected, such as proper bus driving training, emergency vehicle driving, police, ambulance, motorcycle, truck, so many other reasons for safety training. Of course remember this and a very important item, more jobs...there are more jobs for credited safety instructors and engineers today than there are people to fill them. LB 79 had an extremely good hearing in the Education Committee. There were numerous proponents and no opponents. LB 79 came out of committee 8-0. Now, let's get to the reasons, why do we need a state safety center? Currently, there's no organization that coordinates safety education programs in the state of Nebraska. A safety center would enable all institutions in Nebraska to have expert consultant services available within the state rather than constantly bringing in people from out of state. Nebraskans would have an educational institution in their own state which we could use to further our safety education. Currently, all potential advanced safety education students must leave Nebraska and most do not return. There are 26 states now that have state safety centers. Another good reason, the exorbitant costs of accidents demonstrates the cost benefits of a state safety center; increasing insurance rates, increasing medical costs, increased costs of proper damage repair, and of course lost work time are among some of the very important resource drains. It is widely agreed that human error is responsible for 80% of all the accidents. A safety education could directly respond to this problem by increasing knowledge and skills while modifying attitudes and habits. Nebraska's traffic death by population was 25.4 people per 1,000. The national average is 21.6. Now these statistics were from the National Safety Council and their booklet, Traffic Safety, December 1976 page 33. Doesn't this tell you something? It tells me something. LB 79 provides for four major areas of prevention and conservation: traffic, industrial, recreation, and domestic. I will go further into these at a later date. The site of the Nebraska Safety Center, I think, should be decided on the basis of the following criteria: geographic location, population location, cost of development, administrative support, and faculty expertise. Kearney State College answers positively to each of these criteria with the possible exception of one and that is the population area. But the other four I think greatly overpower this one. Remember, too, that the safety center is going to be taken to all parts of the state through the tech colleges, the state colleges, high schools, educational units, University of Omaha, University of Nebraska, anyone that wants it for advanced training. Then instructors and students can come to Kearney to take advantage of the driving range and highly skilled technicians. This range will be the only one of its kind in Nebraska. How many police, firefighters, busdrivers, truckers, many other people have had the advantage of a driving range? We have many endorsements from people in state agencies, such as the Department of Motor Vehicles, Department of Education, Nebraska Highway Safety Program, Department of Roads, community action programs, educational service units, emergency medical services, state colleges, tech schools, many many others. Now we recognize that it's going to cost some money, like anything good