

March 2, 1983

LB 126

Program, the Federal Work Study Program, the SEOG Program and the SSIG Program. The Reagan Administration has recommended many, many other changes in student aid, including eliminating graduate and professional students from eligibility for the Guaranteed Student Loan Program, eliminating entirely the State Student Incentive Grant Program, eliminating the funding for the National Direct Student Loan Program, eliminating the Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant Program in its entirety, further tightening of eligibility requirements for PAL grants as well as reducing levels of funding, and significantly reducing funding or eliminating altogether student aid programs designed to help students in the health professions, namely the Health Professions Loan Program, the Nursing Student Loan Program and the Exceptional Need Program along with others. If the Reagan Administration's proposals were enacted, we would see...we would have seen in 1983-'84 approximately 50 percent decrease in level of funding for these various student assistance programs. 24,300 Nebraska residents would not have received assistance if those program cuts had been implemented. That is about a 40 percent decrease in the number of individuals who receive some form of assistance with their financing of their education. The reason this is pertinent is because these changes are still being considered in Congress. Some of them may be enacted and I think Nebraska should be in a position to respond by having in place a workable student assistance program. I think LB 126 is that program and if that occurs, we want to be in the position to allocate some revenues in this area. I believe the \$100,000 cap is totally unreasonable. I think it is completely unnecessary because the Legislature can set whatever level of appropriation it wants, and if we put in the \$100,000 cap, then we have to amend the statute as well as process a budget document. Therefore, I see it as redundant, unnecessary and really in my opinion is simply an effort to in effect kill LB 126 or make it completely meaningless. So I would urge you to work against...or to vote against the Warner amendment.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Carsten.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I would like to ask Senator Warner a question, if I may. It would appear to me, Senator Warner, that this is again a beginning of a procedure that historically has started with a drop in the bucket and we end up with barrels full. Even though I appreciate your amendment with the \$100,000 cap, my question I guess would be this. With 25 votes on this floor, at some given time down the road that could