

March 20, 1979

LB 500

of Nebraska does not believe in affirmative action?

SENATOR MARSH: No, sir, we are to believe that the University of Nebraska has already mandated for affirmative action, has affirmative action officers, and is under federal rules and regulations relating to the University of Nebraska, as are some other areas.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Then will you outline the areas of government that are included under the bill?

SENATOR MARSH: I beg your pardon?

SENATOR SCHMIT: Will you explain the areas of government that are included under the bill?

SENATOR MARSH: The areas which are included are those agencies which are under the direct control of the Governor of the State of Nebraska. Do you know which agencies those are? I'm not in a position to enumerate them right at the moment.

SENATOR SCHMIT: And at the present time, they have no affirmative action programs?

SENATOR MARSH: That is correct. As you probably are aware, Senator Schmit, the Governor has publicly stated that it is his intention that the official stance of the State of Nebraska shall be for affirmative action, and with that in mind on the dates of the sixth and seventh of March, the Governor had the Governor's Affirmative Action Conference at the Nebraska Center for Continuing Education, at which time he invited his department heads, and Affirmative Action officers, where there were such officers. There were a large number of individuals who came and participated in that two-day working conference.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Well then what is the real responsibility of the Affirmative Action officer in an agency?

SENATOR MARSH: It's the intent of LB 500 to establish, by legislation, public policy so that there will be a deliberate and sustained effort to identify and eliminate barriers to employment and advancement, which may discriminate against individual groups, specifically minority and women.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Is there a record of that kind of discrimination in the past?