

March 28, 1979

LB 200

SPEAKER MARVEL: Okay, proceed, Senator Lewis.

SENATOR LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, the point I was making is that there has to be some kind of orderly way to determine how we are going to provide for these kind of facilities in higher education. I share the same concerns that a number of you do in terms of how you do it and how you structure it. I would like to go through all the drafts and I think there are eleven of them that we went through in terms of trying to tighten that thing down, in terms of trying to make sure that all the control mechanisms were in there that we could keep in there, in terms of control of the staff, in terms of control of the board of directors, in terms of how we finance it. I remember the gentleman from Ohio almost went through the roof when I suggested the compromise that we had to pay part of it on size and part of it on some other factors and certainly they didn't like that. But we have gone through the bill section after section after section in order to try to arrive at something you are going to have to do. The bill is a long range vehicle for this Legislature. Short range, it is not going to hurt you one bit. If you can stand up and expand your chest and say we have killed some kind of a funny little bill, that is okay. It is not going to hurt one thing right now. It is not going to hurt one thing next week, but you are going to have to address that problem. You are going to have to address that problem or those that have your seats are going to have to address that problem because you are going to have to do something in terms of coordination of higher education. You are going to have to do something so that every time somebody develops a pressure that you don't run down here and make a mistake. I know where the heat is coming from right now on vet medicine and let's get down to the issue and I think that is why two or three of you might oppose it. The vet medicine issue is one of the most clouded in terms of what people are trying to do with it. The pressure comes first, the pressure comes first for those who want to go and second for those who need the service but that is just as true in a hundred other cases. New courses, new programs, and that pressure develops and how that pressure usually happens is somebody gets enough together they can move it. You are going to have to do something about the issue of what we do about those kind of courses for those students and for our own needs in terms of higher education. It is just too expensive to do otherwise. There are a lot of other things I think that are important, too, in terms of coordination of programs, in terms of exchange of programs among the states. The reason Virginia and Oklahoma is in there is