

May 4, 1979

LB 585

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Brennan.

SENATOR BRENNAN: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, because of the uncertainty of the final disposition of the lid bill, this was brought on by the tremendous increase in the valuation of property in Omaha which would call for a mill levy reduction by the technical colleges, I want to make sure that somebody has some kind of a check on the money they spend and why they are spending it. LB 363 would establish a coordinating committee for tech colleges but as I understand it would have no authority over their spending. I think there needs to...we have all heard about the ills and the failures of the University of Nebraska Board of Regents but they do have...somebody has the final responsibility for their expenditures. In the tech colleges, it seems that no one has. I urge adoption of the amendment.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Murphy and then Senator Koch. Senator Murphy, speaking to the Brennan amendment.

SENATOR MURPHY: Well, I do support the Brennan amendment and I think that Senator Brennan has brought a very good point to us that has been pointed out in discussions on this floor for the last week. We are presently waffling back and forth with a lid bill after most people in this state felt they were promised they would have one, but more than that, I think we are looked to to be accountable for this money that is spent by state agencies. We take it from the people. We deliver it to the agency. We authorize the agency to go out on their own and collect this money and then do whatever they wish with it and I think that is unfortunate. You know and I know that in many instances these boards are totally at the mercy of the local administrator. We have a fiscal staff to assist us in analyzing these things and I think we owe it to the people of this state to see that they do get the best possible scrutiny before these monies are turned over to be spent at the discretion of a local administrator. I would support Senator Brennan's motion.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Koch.

SENATOR KOCH: Mr. Speaker and members of the body, I share some of Senator Brennan's concerns about the Metro. However, when we are doing this we are in fact including other areas that have operated I believe in good faith and with credibility. And I know that Metro Tech has had some problems internally as far as the board is concerned and possibly as far as faculty is concerned, difference