

April 6, 1981

LB 436

in the North balcony. Where are you folks? Raise your hand so we can...we welcome you, too. Senator Barrett.

SENATOR BARRETT: Mr. Speaker, members, I rise in support of Senator Rumery's 436. It would simply amend the Nebraska Fair Employment Practices Act to provide the "state of origin", in addition to the race, color, sex, creed, so on and so forth, practices. Because there is no present law which does exist to include the "state origin" discrimination clause, I think it is probably most appropriate and it appears to me that, speaking to Senator Koch's concern, I believe the University of Nebraska is on record as not being opposed to the bill, at least that is my understanding. So hopefully any time a position is open, be it at the University or elsewhere, the best person for the job can be selected. I do support 436. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Vickers.

SENATOR VICKERS: Mr. President, members, I rise to oppose LB 436. As I indicated when I was answering Senator Koch's question, I am a member of the committee that heard this bill and I think that Senator Koch indicated there is some serious implications of LB 436 that this body needs to be aware of. First of all it is a bill brought in for one specific instance. This specific instance being the individual that was denied employment as a professor at the University of Nebraska because he was a graduate of the University of Nebraska but the accreditation standards imposed on the University as we were told by the University people that testified at the hearing is such that there has to be a certain percentage of their professors from other colleges. Otherwise there is a certain amount of inbred teaching, if you will, that results. I don't think it is a reflection on the University of Nebraska at all that they are not able to turn out qualified people because I am sure that if you would check with other colleges you would find out that many of their professors are from the University of Nebraska. There is a...obviously other colleges have the same concern if that is part of the accreditation standards. But I think that is beside the point, actually. As I say this bill was brought to us for that specific instance but, remember, what we are addressing here is all employers in the State of Nebraska, not just the University of Nebraska, not just the public sector but the private sector as well. If you will read on page 2, Section 1, "It is the policy of this state to foster the employment of all employable persons in the state on the basis of merit regardless", and this is existing language, "of the race, color, religion, sex, disability, or national origin...". Now all