

April 30, 1981

LB 560

CLERK: Mr. President, the next amendment I have is from Senator Koch. (Read Koch amendment as found on page 1671 of the Legislative Journal.)

SENATOR NICHOL: Senator Koch.

SENATOR KOCH: Mr. Chairman, members of the body, recently it has been brought to my attention and I think a number of other people on this floor, the Regents made a decision that the preengineering courses offered at the UNO campus would terminate effective July 1 of this year. People talk about receiving mail and I have received a considerable amount from students and from members of the profession of engineering and from industry, highly concerned about the I think rather irresponsible action of the Regents in the fact that I asked them to logically provide me with information of how they came to that conclusion when they have two hundred and fifty students enrolled in those courses. My correspondence also indicates to me that a number of people who have achieved the degrees in engineering, matriculated in that preengineering school at UNO campus and as a result today have their degrees and are practicing successfully and I believe that we should place in LB 560 an amendment to the extent that we direct the University to reestablish a program at the UNO campus. Now if they intend to put preengineering at the UNL campus, that may provide some relief, however, I remind you that there are many students in the Omaha area who go to school part time in the evening and those who are matriculating in preengineering, that means then that they would have to make a journey of fifty miles or more to this campus and return in the evening and then pursue an occupational endeavor to try to carry on their wishes in education. If we are going to do anything in engineering, it is my belief that possibly we should have moved our engineering program completely to Omaha when you look at the total program and the kinds of opportunities that might be available in a total engineering procedure. So what I am proposing here is that we take \$150,000 that the University was appropriating or asked for that would have gone to the Medical Center to stabilize the Eppley Center and advise the Regents that this money should be used for the perpetuation of the pre-engineering college at the campus of UNO which is a part of UNL and our University system. It is interesting to me when we talk about programs and I don't want to become sarcastic but when I look at the Vet College the Board of Regents say that we have no opposition as long as our other programs are not affected, however, I think it is time that the Board of Regents establish some priorities in terms of programs which are viable and important to our economy and to the future of people seeking higher