

April 30, 1981

LB 560, 506, 506A

education and since we are going to pass 506 which is a tax on cigarettes to help to support the Eppley Center, which I am in favor of, then I think it is also important that we direct a \$150,000 of General Funds to the perpetuation of the engineering program at the University campus in Omaha. I ask for the adoption of this amendment.

SENATOR NICHOL: Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, I rise to oppose the amendment. I hope I can explain adequately or appropriately, if I can use that word, Senator Koch, why I feel we should not support it. We have consistently encouraged the Board of Regents to reallocate funds within the institution rather than just asking for more money and in this case some feel perhaps they made a mistake and if they did, then I think they ought to have the responsibility to correct it and it is no problem for them to do it because the money was not taken away. It was reallocated. What the book shows is that we took away that budget line, not only for this engineering program they are talking about but also Centennial College which was what the Regents themselves have done and the money would have been placed then when those people who were involved in those programs were reassigned or those positions reassigned, the budget that is now before us reflects that money to be spent wherever the Regents had indicated it was to go. So we don't need to add money nor to have that program reestablished and I think if we begin, this is one of the first times the Regents have come in, if we immediately begin to overrule every time they make a decision, we are going to discourage them from doing the very thing that many of us have been suggesting to them for a good many years that instead of just asking for more money for every program, their first choice ought to be to reallocate existing funds to more appropriate purposes and in their experiment with this approach, I assume they may make mistakes but I would suggest that they are the ones that ought to correct it if, indeed, it was because it is not a funding problem. The other concern that I would only point out to you that the funding that Senator Koch is proposing is the \$150,000 which is in the appropriation bill for the Eppley Center and it is presumed, I suppose, that LB 506 and 506A will pass and that may be a reasonable assumption but if in the event it is not, then the effect of this amendment would be that even the \$150,000 for the Eppley Center would be gone and the Eppley Center would be the loser. So I am not sure that this is the place, in fact, where Senator Koch wants to make the amendment unless he is absolutely sure that 506 is going to pass in some-where near and existing form. But my main reason is that we do not need to take this action. The funds are there.