

May 19, 1981

LB 320

try to resolve the concerns he has in good faith.  
Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Lamb.

SENATOR LAMB: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I rise to vigorously support Senator Cullan's amendment. Senator Nichol misses an important point when he talks about the financial problems of Western Tech and the western part of the state, and that is the fact that property taxes are being used in order to finance this institution of higher learning. It is a philosophical problem that I have had ever since I have been in this Legislature. I share Senator Cullan's concern. Here we are saying we are going to take the lid off the 2 1/2 mill property tax for community colleges in this one instance out in western Nebraska. Now as I have stated before on this floor, the theory behind this is wrong. This is the only system of higher education which uses property tax in order to finance it. The University uses the general fund money. The state colleges use general fund money, no property tax. However, when you get to the community technical colleges, we use a different system of financing. What do we do? About half of it comes from property tax. I submit that is not the proper method of financing those institutions. So in the spirit of compromise, I guess, previously agreed upon in this Legislature, we have said the maximum will be 2 1/2 mills. There will be a 2 1/2 mill ceiling. Now we are coming along with a bill and if you will look at the committee statement, I opposed the bill as it was advanced from the committee, we come along with a bill that is removing that 2 1/2 mill property tax limit. So now what will it be? Well, nobody knows. Nobody knows because if the 7 percent lid is modified then there will be no limit up to whatever the new 7 percent lid or the new lid that replaces the 7 percent, if any. And if there is no lid, then the property tax on western Nebraska will have no limit. So at this point I certainly support Senator Cullan's amendment. It is a reasonable compromise. It allows Western Tech to use the additional money to get additional money from the property tax for a two year period. It's a sunset provision. It is something that needs to be there and I hope you will pass the Cullan amendment.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Kremer.

SENATOR KREMER: Mr. President and members, I have no strong feeling on the Cullan amendment. I can live with it. I do want to say at this point, I feel strongly either