

The College of St. Mary is available in Omaha and a mere thirty miles away we have Midland College in Fremont. We have Duchesne in Omaha. On the other side we have Bellevue College and of course in Council Bluffs, Beuna Vista. We have Dana in Blair and Iowa Western. Now this is a lot of postsecondary education. To put additional funds to allow this proliferation further I think is a mistake. Now I think we are faced with a very serious serious real problem in this state and that is maintaining what we have in existence without additional expansion. Now the people that put together, and I think Senator Koch, Senator Warner, Senator Cullan, were all members of this postsecondary coordination commission or committee that spent two years. I am sure there are others. Senator Marsh came out with a very strong recommendation, no more. Now there was some concessions made and I think we ought to just clear the air because somebody is going to bring it up. There is a vocational community technical college in Columbus that has some academic transfer courses, Platte Community Technical College. But I think historically we have to remember that when that college joined the system that was a two year junior college and now it is a 60/40 balance with only 40% academic transfer and I think there is another thing that has to be kept in mind and that is the only location in the vast central community technical college system that provides for academic transfer and I think there is some argument, and I would be less than honest with you to say that I have some real serious misgivings as whether that school should have academic transfer, but I think there is some argument in a twenty-six county area with the amount of miles we are talking about and the amount of other postsecondary institutions that are available to those citizens that you can justify some academic transfer in that area. But in the City of Omaha, with all of the postsecondary institutions available to those citizens and many of them at taxpayer's expense, many of them private, it is just absolutely not necessary to serve the citizenry. It is absolutely not necessary and I know I am going to get some criticism from some senators that you are going to be discriminating against a certain class of people and I think I should answer that right now in my open remarks. You know, I do not believe that we should have a different standard or a different level for a certain group of people. I think that is wrong. So I think, I urge this body to face this issue carefully, to understand this issue, to recognize, be cognizant of the historical development of this, to recognize the effort this Legislature has made to stop proliferation, the intense efforts that were made and at the same time we were talking about Super Board and lot of other drastic solutions but open the door. This will be just the first step and if we don't say no now without