

May 19, 1981

LB 320

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Barrett.

SENATOR BARRETT: Mr. Speaker, I move the previous question.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Do I see five hands? I do. All those in favor of ceasing debate vote aye, opposed vote no. The motion is to cease debate. Have you all voted? Record the vote.

CLERK: 27 ayes, 0 nays to cease debate, Mr. President.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Debate has ceased. The Chair recognizes Senator Dworak to close on his amendment.

SENATOR DWORAK: Mr. President and colleagues, I can remember when that Postsecondary Coordination Committee started studying the issue of duplication of our postsecondary institutions and we were not talking about private schools. We were talking about duplication of tax supported schools. Three or four years ago I can remember a testimony here in Lincoln where identical courses were being offered at the University of Nebraska and at that time Southeast Community Technical College, exactly same courses, different tuition levels. You know if these community technical schools had their way I am sure there would be absolutely no stopping them. You know, if we don't put some kind of reins on them we are going to see growth that is going to be unbelievable. And now here we have got a bill coming across to take away limitation on capital construction, increase the mill levy, charge people more property tax, no sunset provision and now to allow to expand the statement of role and mission and academic transfer of courses. And that is just going to be the first step and if we allow Metro to do it then we are going to have to allow Southeast to do it and if we are going to allow Southeast to do it we are going to have to let the new school in Grand Island do it which isn't built yet but after we take off the limitation, look out, or the school twenty miles away in Hastings to do it. There just has to be some kind of control. There has to be some kind of guidance. You know we have sat here and lulled ourselves into the concept that we are going to let these people voluntarily coordinate and that is going to eliminate duplication. Now really, with declining enrollments the competition is getting fierce for students. That is really what part of this issue is all about and we've got a great competitive system here with taxpayers' dollars at taxpayers' expense to preserve, to maintain individual empires of the administrators of these various schools. Now we are spending 21 million dollars for UNO, 21 million dollars out of the general fund. We are spending 19 million 280 thousand dollars out of the general fund for the community technical college system. Now when we expand role and mission statements we are, in fact, encouraging additional expenditures