

SENATOR HIGGINS: Mr. President and colleagues, the only reason I put my light on is because Senator Warner said that he would prefer any philosophical questions or remarks be made today rather than tomorrow. So that is what I am rising for. I wish you would all look towards me and see this pile that I just dropped. I don't know how many publications there are that we receive from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, the University of Nebraska at Omaha, the University of Nebraska Medical Center but it is tons and tons of wasted printed material. Now I am not saying I am not going to go along with budget cuts but what I do resent is when the University people get up and say, well, the first thing we are going to have to do is get rid of employees. Now, Senators, those of you who are not familiar with Omaha, the University of Nebraska in Omaha is about ten minutes from the University of Nebraska Medical Center and they each have their own printing shop. This is an article UNMC put out in their own weekly publication about their magnificent printing shop. I am going to give you just a few excerpts from it in order to show you how unimaginative these college educated people who are running our Universities are. They say the first thing to go is going to be employees. Now remember this is written by the Medical Center's own print shop manager. Could I have a little quiet please, Mr. President. I am having a little trouble here wondering if they are hearing me. "In 1972", this is the printing shop manager talking, "I had 8 people finishing some 300 jobs per month. By 1982 the work force had increased to 22 full time and 5 part time employees " I won't subtract and add that for you. You can figure it out in 10 years how it grew. But their next paragraph is the one that is the whopper. They are "using far more specialized automated equipment. Our big increase has been with specialized automated equipment." Now I ask you, Senators, when you go to automated equipment, isn't one of the first objections you hear from unions is that it is going to put people out of work, and yet the Medical Center's print shop increased employment, and what do you think this automated equipment has cost the taxpayers in just this printing shop. He says he is so proud they spent one-half million dollars on printing equipment at the Medical Center. He also says they have cut the cost by twenty to twenty-five percent less than outside market prices. Well, now that is his figures. I am wondering if we did an intensive study on what it cost to insure that half a million dollars of equipment, maintain it, would it be twenty to twenty-five percent less, and would you tell me, please, why they can't do the printing that UNO has to have or UNO can't do their printing. I don't know how much equipment they have. If the campus facilities are inadequate for an order, he prepares specs and gets bids from outside vendors and oversees the job as a broker. So a half a million dollars worth of equipment and all these extra employees still isn't doing the job for them. He said, "The Center has expanded four times in the past ten years and we have already outgrown the space." Does that mean they are going to come back and say, "We need more space and we want more money to build more." What is the motto of the print shop. "Our motto is 'service'." It sure as the devil isn't "saving tax dollars". "We are in the process of working up details for a bulk mailing facility in coordination with the print shop." Where in the name of God is private enterprise in Omaha and in Lincoln and I urge you look at the junk mail