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LB 140

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. President. I would like to ask some questions, if I may, of Senator Conway.

PRESIDENT: Senator Conway, please.

SENATOR SMITH: Senator Conway, I'm looking...trying to look at the fiscal note here and I think I heard Senator Nelson say it's about...would become nearly \$4 million. Is that what she said?

SENATOR CONWAY: You'll have to ask her what she said.

SENATOR SMITH: It's very difficult...well, can you tell me what it is?

SENATOR CONWAY: The fiscal note came down, I believe it was in the neighborhood of \$4 million by virtue of the only way to calculate it was to look at the maximums. I called today to the Coordinating Commission. We currently only have a 100...just barely over 100,000 students in postsecondary education in Nebraska right now totally, totally. But the assumption that they used was 60,000 people taking...being involved in this so there is just no way to calculate it. One, you don't know how many will participate. All they can go on is if everybody did it, how bad would it be? Well, here's what their best guess would be, so...(interruption)

SENATOR SMITH: Well, let me ask you another question. Does this...is there ever a payback from this account? And why is there a cost? Is this a cost to the state?

SENATOR CONWAY: It is foregone income would what would be the cost.

SENATOR SMITH: What do you mean by that?

SENATOR CONWAY: Foregone income taxes that they think they would have collected, otherwise now you can keep from the taxing mechanism by virtue of committing it to a student's education.

SENATOR SMITH: I see what you're saying. Okay. All right, it is my understanding also, and I'm not very...I have not had much experience with...since I have not been able to save dollars or pass them on to my kids, isn't it also possible at this point in time for parents, is it parents only who can set aside or who can give gifts up to, what is it, \$3,000 a year per child?