

deck.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Members of the body, I hope that you were listening carefully to what Senator Withem stated when he was telling you about the history and the background and the reasoning as far as the Education Committee is concerned in their approval of this measure. This is something that they did, gave their approval to for the Hastings Campus of the community college in central Nebraska and it has proven to be very cost effective and they did have to bring their case, as he said, and present it to them. And I just think this is a good way of going about this process. I heartily support LB 395 and I hope you will too.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Lamb.

SENATOR LAMB: Mr. President and members, here we go again. You know, it's almost every year that we have a special little bill for one special little community college and so I guess this is the one that fits in this year. You know, we don't have an overall plan for the community colleges. We just, every year, come in with a little plan for this year it's Norfolk, next year it will be Sidney, year after that it will be Omaha. Don't forget Hastings and Grand Island, yeah, I won't forget that. We come in with a different little plan every year because we have got a little special problem. You know, we never get our act together. We never have a program, an overall program that we can follow that's consistent that we can rely on that's fair. We always just have to come in with these little piecemeal bills almost every year dealing with a particular situation. So this is once more, you know, this is going to pass. You know, I have opposed this sort of a bill for years and years but I realize...after all these years I realize it's going to pass. There's only going to be two or three negative votes, maybe only one. But I'm going to stand here and make my pitch one more time and maybe two or three more times that this is not the way to go. And, you know, we had a couple of bills which would restructure, somewhat restructure postsecondary education and it looks like they're not going to go. You know, we had 160, then we had another bill that Senator Scofield had to rename the colleges and so it seems to me at this point we really need to sit down and decide what we're going to do in the area of postsecondary education. Now are we going to continue a system that we have of the community colleges, community technical colleges, that's different from the others, in that they rely on