

April 7, 1989

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frankly, not a sophisticated enough politician to protect what the ultimate outcome will be, but I do think that this probably guarantees very interesting and nasty political warfares and we've gone well beyond the interest of the State of Nebraska and the interest of the people who want higher education at this point. I realize sometimes to get where you want to go, as Kearney has, you feel like you've got to force your hand and force your issue, but I think that we would be much wiser to go back, and we're probably not going to go back now and study, I think this changes the whole tone of the study. I question now what exactly...I'd have to reread this bill and question what the role of the senators and everybody else in this is, and if it is simply to facilitate a transfer and that's it, then we haven't done anything for higher education in this state and I would disagree vehemently with the points of view expressed by Senator Warner and Senator Kristensen and others, that this doesn't have anything to do with money. Everything has to do with money, particularly when you don't have enough of it. So I think that this last vote is very interesting and I guess I've thought through some things just listening to the debate here and some of the admissions that I've heard that I've never heard before that make me think that regardless of where you're from, if you're genuinely interested in the delivery of services in this state, that we better think very carefully of what we're doing about it here. I would, frankly, be willing to say that I'd put the whole system under the Board of Regents, as Senator Elmer suggested earlier, if the Board of Regents had in any way distinguished themselves as able to adequately run a statewide campus, as able to distribute resources in such a way it keeps the relative campuses happy and I've never heard anybody from Omaha that was ever happy with anything they were getting. Maybe that's just Omaha, but I don't think so. And so I guess I think we've got a lot of work to do here, folks, if we're really going to resolve this and I'm not sure that this bill is even salvageable at this point and I regret that because I would like very much to do a serious study, but I'm not so sure but what maybe we shouldn't just kill this bill and move on because I think now we've opened a can of worms and you ought to be sitting there thinking, if I move this piece, what does that mean? And I...given the history of this body, I think it means we make the move and then the war begins for resources and we haven't done anything to accomplish our goals in terms of coordination, cooperation and so on and all those other highfalutin things that we always talk about we want to do. We've simply been politically expedient here. We have responded

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