

May 9, 1989

LB 247, 814

CLERK: Okay.

PRESIDENT: Senator Hartnett, please.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Mr. President, members of the body, this would delete Section 29, colleges, Program 916, the third floor addition to Founders Hall at Kearney State College, the first year, '89-90, would be \$121,680 General Fund, and 1990-91 would be \$1,918,000 of General Fund. Bernard-Stevens, do you want...would you like to, turn it over to you.

PRESIDENT: Senator Bernard-Stevens, please. Thank you.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. I've been counting. I haven't been in anything controversial in about ten hours now, so it's...I'm about due. This is one that I think the body should at least take a look at. I'm not saying that I think the body should necessarily say let's go and strike it, but I certainly think you should look at it and make a policy decision. On the one hand we have, and I'm sure Senator Langford will be very good and adamant in her defense of Founders Hall. On the one hand we have a building that needs a third story. It's needed a third story for a long time. They have a space problem at Kearney State. Some of the people in the body would be, that's because they've recruited so many students now they don't know what to do with them. But nonetheless there is a space problem. And it's been something that has been put on the back...that has been...should have been done a long time ago, but it's been put off, and put off, and put off and other things have come in and now it has finally come in to get its due fund, due share. The reason I think the body should take at least a look at that is particularly in light of what has happened with Kearney already this session. And the one thing, obviously, that is if LB 247 passes two things are going to happen. One, you're going to have a study that will look at all of higher education needs in the State of Nebraska, of which Kearney would be part of it. But, two, and maybe more importantly in regards to this topic, would be that Kearney would be put into the university system. There are a couple of modes of thought. Do we want to put in brick and mortar into Kearney when we really don't know how yet it's going to fit in with the university system? We haven't looked at it, they haven't looked at it. They don't know how they're going to set up their programs, they don't know how things are actually going to be done, those things need to be worked out in the