

May 9, 1991

LB 647

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays, Madam President, on adoption of Senator Warner's amendment.

PRESIDENT MOUL: The amendment is adopted. Is there anything further on the desk, Mr. Clerk?

CLERK: No further amendments at this time, Madam President.

PRESIDENT MOUL: I'll now recognize senators wishing to speak on the bill itself. Senator Smith.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Madam Chairman...President, I mean, and members of the Legislature. I didn't want you all to think that only the Omaha area senators are supporting this bill or have the same concerns as some of us in outstate Nebraska have. Senator Coordsen and I are also co-sponsors, and we don't live in or near Omaha, but we both have good reason for urging your advancement of LB 647. We have a handout here that I'm not going to speak about, because I think Senator Lynch will do that. But he brings out some really valid points in here. And I hope you listened when he talks about those. Hastings College happens to be in my district, and I want to talk about the significant economic impact that private colleges have on this state. I'm not going to try address the other concerns, just talk about the economy of the situation as far as private colleges in communities are concerned. Private colleges and universities provide more than 4,000 jobs in Nebraska. They have an economic impact on more than \$300 million to the state. In Adams County, Hastings College is one of the biggest employers, and brings a lot of outside money into that community. It just makes sense to me that we ought to fully utilize our existing resources. These colleges exist for the benefit of the public. They're nonprofit. They're training many of the future leaders of our state and country. If we were to lose them, we would lose an irreplaceable resource. If the state had to educate the students who attend Nebraska private colleges and universities, we'd have to build a college the size of Kearney, Chadron and Wayne combined. We just need to provide some funds so students who wish to attend can have a chance to go to these colleges, if they prefer to. I don't always agree, again, with the Nebraska Chamber of Commerce and Industry, but in this issue I do. They passed a resolution, a few years ago, supporting scholarship assistance for students attending private colleges, because they know, in the long run, it can save the state money, and utilize one of the most valuable resources as