

PRESIDENT MOUL: Time.

SENATOR LYNCH: I'll have my light on again.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you. Senator Robinson.

SENATOR ROBINSON: Madam President, members of the body, I stand in support of LB 647. I don't know how many people I've sat and listened to through appropriations for higher education, but I've been very supportive of higher education. I was on the Metro Tech Board for six years, went to the University of Nebraska and the old University of Omaha. But I think there are some things...some things that have been mentioned, and I'll briefly repeat those. There's one thing that's happening in Nebraska, at the present time we're a net exporter of first time freshmen. In other words, there are more students that left the state to attend college than came to Nebraska to attend college. And these were some of our best and most talented and brightest students. Kansas gives something like five and a half million dollars to independent college students, Colorado million and a half, and Iowa, probably the most noted, has thirty-five million. If you know Iowa's higher education system at all, they only have three state schools, University of Iowa, Iowa State, and Northern Iowa. They depend a lot on their...they depend solely on their independent schools for smaller...for their students to go to smaller schools. I don't think there's any doubt that this would be a savings in tax money for the State of Nebraska. All we heard in appropriations was we're gaining more students, year in and year out, what do we do? What do we hear in capital construction? All the institutions need more buildings. I support that. But you think there's a possibility that if we would give some aid to independent schools that possibly some of those students are going to some of the public schools of higher education may just possibly go to independent schools? Sure they would. They all do in Iowa. I was down in Kansas City, in December, and I took the Widmayer report down, and it's real interesting that they have a couple comments in here about private...about private schools. And all of you know what the Widmayer report was, it's Postsecondary Education Study Committee State of Nebraska...was LB 247. It's very interesting, in all the hearings that I listened to I never heard private school mentioned once by a higher education administrator. It says Nebraska's 15 independent colleges and university enroll 19 percent of the total enrolled in the state; they are a valuable resource that must be protected for the sake