

May 9, 1991

LB 132, 652

the body. I would like to ask for a division of the question.

PRESIDENT MOUL: I'll raise the call first. Would you please identify how you wish to divide this question.

SENATOR COORDSEN: I would like to have Section 25, on page 14, and 15, separated from the rest of the committee amendments.

PRESIDENT MOUL: It is divisible, and we'll do the bulk of the amendments first.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Recognize senators wishing to speak to them. Senator Withem.

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes, Madam Chair, members of the body, I'm going to direct a question to Senator Moore, but probably give a little bit of background information on why I am asking the question first. Making a reference to Section 19 of the bill, the Grand Island Learning Center funding, little background on this bill, on this program. Senator Nelson, Senator Baack, Senator Hillman, a group of other senators brought to us, in the Education Committee, a bill, LB 132, which was a bill that would have established four learning centers in the State of Nebraska. We on the Education Committee chose not to advance that bill, not because we had any policy negative feelings on learning centers, but because we felt that the learning center issue was one that the new Coordinating Commission on Postsecondary Education ought to be dealing with. I think that's a fair statement. When it became apparent that the Education Committee was not going to advance the bill, we had some discussions with some folks in Scottsbluff, Senator Hillman and Senator Baack, some discussions with Senator Nelson and some people in Grand Island about the status of their programs. They both basically, both of those groups indicated, and Senator Nelson can comment whether she agrees or disagrees with my assertion here, but I think they basically felt comfortable letting the Coordinating Commission make the determination on whether to formally establish learning centers or not. Particularly in the Grand Island case there was a concern by some of the citizens out there that the university system, which had previously offered off campus programs from the Kearney campus, I guess it was the state college system previously, from the Kearney campus in Grand Island may cease doing that, if we did not pass some type