

May 22, 1991

LB 652

PRESIDENT MOUL: Please record, Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: 25 ayes, 1 nay to cease debate.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Debate has ceased. The house is under call. Would the senators please record their presence and, Senator Ashford, I would recognize you for closing.

SENATOR ASHFORD: Thank you, Madam President, and, of course, I have to give my obligatory reaffirmation of our Chairman, Senator Moore, as being a wonderful person and he sure is. He's...we have to say he is a wonderful person and we all believe that, but Senator Moore's absolutely wrong and I'll tell you where he's wrong. I've gotten the last three editions of the World-Herald, starting with the front page article yesterday and then this morning and I guess yesterday morning and last night and this morning saying that the smaller raises are urged for Kearney and UNO by Senator Moore, and I...I just dis...I think on this issue I just simply disagree with him. You have to look at the process that is undertaken at these campuses. The Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska negotiated, in good faith, an agreement with the faculty at UNO and with the faculty at Kearney and those raises, we sit here and we say, well, Kearney had an increase of 8.7 percent, that's terrible in these awful economic times. The point of fact is that the Board of Regents agreed to 8.7 percent. I'm sorry, it wasn't the Board of Regents but...it was the Board of Regents, agreed to 8.7. In the case of UNO, the Board of Regents agreed to 6.5 percent. That's how the process works. That's how the process works. What I'm concerned about is Scott's statement that they have to...that those campuses have to bear that burden; that it is not a university's burden, but it's the burden of those individual campuses, and I just take exception with that. It's a university responsibility. And what bothers me, not...it's not so much what Scott is saying about that, but it's the response that I'm getting from the Board of Regents. I'm getting no response from the Board of Regents. I'm getting no clear message from the Board of Regents or the President of the University of Nebraska system saying, yes, we respect the integrity of the collective bargaining system. That's...not only is a collective bargaining system with our professors a statutory prescription, it's in our Constitution. It's in our Constitution. It's a system that's worked in Nebraska since it was put in the Constitution in 1919. We have a system of collective bargaining with university professors that has

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