

September 28, 1992 LB 10

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. We will then proceed with General File, LB 10.

CLERK: LB 10, Madam President, was a bill introduced by the Appropriations Committee and signed by its members. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on September 21st of this year, referred to the Government Committee. The bill was advanced to General File. I do have committee amendments pending by the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator Conway.

SENATOR CONWAY: Madam President and members, LB 10 was heard by the Government Committee on the 23rd. We had a rather lengthy hearing. It is not the first time that we have, as a committee, dealt with concerns relative to the tuition assistance on behalf of the National Guard members. After hearing the bill, the committee proposed an amendment to the bill that would significantly alter the bill as it was presented to the committee. Under the original form, the bill was designed to put a \$500 cap per fiscal year for any student receiving assistance and then eliminate the \$1,200 limit in terms of the number of students that were eligible for the program. What basically these caps would do, as we heard in the committee and we discussed amongst ourselves, would be to significantly limit the students' benefits as they had been promised and in many cases the assumption was made that many of the students joined the National Guard with the idea that they were going to get 75 percent of their tuition support as they proceed to their higher education while they are a member of the National Guard. Other considerations were given, such as reducing it down to 50 percent or other such things, but I think as the committee and possibly some other committee members will respond to, as we discuss this at this time, the idea was that most of these National Guard members were recruited with the idea that they would have 75 percent of their tuition paid for, they would support 25 percent out of their own pocket in turn for their being recruited and their serving six to eight-year stints with the National Guard providing the federal forces backup as well as various disaster support and other activities that they provide for the State of Nebraska. It seemed, on the part of many of the committee members, that it was probably somewhat out of line to promise the 75 percent tuition support for their attending Nebraska state institutions of higher learning and at some point after becoming a member of the National Guard with