

September 28, 1992 LB 10

Senator Lindsay.

SENATOR LINDSAY: Thank you, Madam President. I was going to talk about heroism, patriotism and Desert Storm but Senator Chambers said I couldn't, so I don't know what I'll say. I stand up in opposition to the Chambers amendment and in support of the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee amendment. And I think in response a little bit to what Senator Moore brought up about having it whether the universities and colleges should be required to absorb this cost, I think we should all take a look at the handout that Senator Moore handed out this morning. When he was talking about the MIRE program and reducing payments to state and local governments, he said those state and local governments ought to be sharing a portion of these budget cuts because they take up 15 percent of the budget. If we look at what postsecondary education costs the state, it takes up 20 percent of our budget. We have to look at all facets of our budget if we intend to balance the budget equitably. I'm carrying that a bill that I'm not real enthralled about carrying but the fact is we have to push that type of legislation because we have to make cuts wherever it's necessary. And I don't think we can start picking and choosing our own little pet programs to hang onto just...and then cut them where we don't like them. All have to be willing to take the cut, to make the difficult decisions, and this is one of those decisions. And when we look at it, look at the numbers, if you look at the fiscal impact statement on the back side of that, it will show you what kind of enormous figures we're talking about. We're talking about \$210,000 to UNL. That \$210,000 certainly is a nice size figure. Given the scheme of things, given their budget and the size of their budget, it is not a drastic change, it is not a huge change, and, frankly, I think it's something that they can absorb. If you look at the other ones, again, I think these are numbers that can be absorbed by the different institutions. I don't think we're putting a great deal of burden on them. Secondly, I think you have to look at exactly what the credit is. We're talking about if you have a class of 30 students and you add an additional student to that class, is it really costing you the exact amount of the figures that we're talking about? Does it really increase the cost of the university or the college to add that one or two or however many students to a particular class? I don't think it results in adding additional teachers. I don't think it results in adding additional facilities. I don't think it adds to the cost. The question...it comes down to another