

September 28, 1992 LB 10

I would like to call the senators' attention to the south balcony. Special guests today of Senator Cudaback are 19 seniors from Pleasanton High School and their teacher. Would you please rise and be recognized. Welcome to the Chamber. Thank you. I will now recognize Senator Schrock, followed by Senators Warner, Moore, Chambers, Bohlke and Wehrbein.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Madam President and members of the Legislature, I will be brief. But I hope when you consider Senator Chambers' amendment and the committee amendments you keep in mind that the Nebraska National Guard is now at 84 percent of strength. That means there's room for more guardsmen there. Why are they not fuller now? Because they are unable to track full capacity. It matters little to me whether the universities have to absorb 25 percent or whether the State of Nebraska pays the full 75 percent. I think we need the 75 percent incentive there for them to enroll in the National Guard. If the National Guard, in the State of Nebraska, becomes too far under strength or our capacity would maybe...our strength would maybe drop down to 70, 75 percent, I think the federal government will take a look at the Nebraska National Guard and scale it down and that means less payroll to the State of Nebraska, less protection in times of natural disaster, which would include tornadoes, floods or whatever. So I hope that you adopt the committee amendments and reject Senator Chambers' amendment because I think it's important that we have a fully funded, as high a strength National Guard as we can have. It's good for our youth and it's good for the State of Nebraska.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Schrock. Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: Madam President and members of the Legislature, I would rise to probably support Senator Chambers' amendment, but in the process also oppose the committee amendment. There's a presumption here that somehow or other we're going to reduce the tuition that somehow that's a cut for the institution of postsecondary education. I don't think that's how it works and Senator Moore may want to elaborate on it. But what we used to do, at least, you set a total appropriation for the state colleges and university and then you subtract it from that other sources of revenue, one of which was tuition. And what was left is generally what was funded with General Fund. You reduce the source of fund that comes out of this tuition. You simply add to the pressure to increase the General Fund on the other side in the future. At least that's what's always happened in the