

September 28, 1992 LB 10

committee amendments said that I was raising an issue which is not appropriate for this discussion, and that issue was whether or not we ought to have this tuition program anyway. Well, it seems to me that that issue is being addressed by what is being done with this bill. If it was not wise in the first instance, and in my opinion it was not, it is not wise now. Since the matter is before us, we ought to handle it in the way that it ought to be handled, and that's to eliminate the entire program. That, however, is not going to occur. But this that is being attempted does not have to occur either. So if there are some people who voted for the committee amendment because they think there ought to be a reduction in the amount that the state pays on this tuition, you might be wise to reconsider your vote because this bill may not pass at all. And if the bill does not pass at all, those who will want to keep the 75 percent subsidy that the state is paying will win. And I am sure there are bills that the Governor considers more important than this one, but this one can have a difficult time passing, and I am going to do what I can to delay its passage. If the committee amendment is stricken, the bill is less bad in that form than it is now. The bill will do in a straightforward way what those who introduced it had represented the bill as doing, that would be to put that cap of \$500 on the amount that could be received under this program. This action that the Legislature took is the kind that causes people to feel that politicians are disingenuous, if they are not outright dishonest. They fly one flag when they present a program, then it winds up being something entirely different. So if in justifying the original offering, all types of arguments were offered that were supposed to be rational and well-thought-out, yet what is foisted on the public is entirely different, then you have to find a way to account for the change. I don't think that this committee amendment should remain a part of this bill. If it does, then I have to take a deep breath and do all I can to fight LB 10, and I should think that the members of the Government Committee would assist me in that battle because they probably don't want any reduction in that 75 percent that the state pays. Abraham Lincoln said that sometimes a change will not occur until a crisis is reached and passed. If it is felt that there is a spending crisis or a money on hand crisis facing the state now,...

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...then let us leave things as they are with