

September 28, 1992 LB 10

National Guard as the government saw fit. So what becomes of the National Guard being under the control of the Governor? Nothing. Words on paper that have no significance in terms of operational law. So without going into all this stuff about the guard belongs to the state, the issue is whether or not you want to spend state money to encourage people to join a federal operation and activity over which the state does not have control. Senator Conway, if there were a flood in Nebraska, and there are a lot of votes to be had in Florida, and National Guards people were needed, this Governor couldn't say, our guards people are going to stay here in Nebraska and tend to this flood, if Bush decided they should be in Florida. Florida is where they're going. This is a little peanut head state with five electoral votes. I don't know how many they got in Florida, but they got a lot more than that. And it's funny how disasters are more troubling to the conscience of those in power, when a lot of electoral votes are at stake, than a disaster in a state where they don't have a lot of electoral votes. We know what the reality is. And on those aspects where there might be some uncertainty about the National Guard, I'll try to fill you in on that. And it's not that by a process of osmosis it came into my head. I've had conflicts and controversy...

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...with the National Guard. I have been involved actively in being opposed to certain assignments that they were given by the federal government. And the federal government rules, because the federal government pays the lions share of the National Guard. And this individual that I talked to at the Pentagon was explaining the economic value of the guard to this state, because of the federal money that comes into the state through the National Guard. He was talking about C-130's or whatever Senator Conway was talking about, opening doors and kicking hay out to feed animals. What we need the National Guard to do, Senator Conway, is to storm this Legislature to make sure we don't take the food out of the mouths of poor women. I like to feed animals, but I'd much rather see poor people fed. So if there was a choice between funding this money for the National Guard and leaving money in a program for poor women, I'm for feeding the poor women.

SPEAKER BAACK: Time. Senator Bohlke.