

September 29, 1992 LB 29

little bit and I had started to get into it. But 247 noted that a two-year associate degree program, like those offered at Curtis, are more properly offered by the community colleges. The report more bluntly stated that NCTA's affiliation with the University of Nebraska is but custom and political convenience, not educational jurisdiction. That, colleagues, is why I, therefore, introduced LB 29. And it was drafted in the most forceful terms possible to prod a discussion of whether the taxpayers can continue to afford 1.5 million on the custom and political convenience that the NCTA as it now exists. It is my hope that the discussion would specifically include the possibilities of shifting the Curtis programs to community colleges per the LB 247 report at a cost substantially less than 1.5 million. The committee agreed to advance to 1993 the date for the coordinating commission review and recommendation on Curtis. I suspect the community college option, indeed, whether some Curtis programs could be moved to McCook itself will be central. This editorial that I talked to you about overlooks the critical distinction between the buildings at NCTA and agricultural education invites speculation, colleagues, on the editorial writer's motives rather than mine. Is your concern, Mr. Editor, having an NCTA at Curtis where the two are not inextricably bound, but such reflections would have interrupted the editorial's gallop to excoriating the state program of prenatal assistance. You might have even been compelled to acknowledge the five expectant mothers in Red Willow County receiving such assistance, and that the 1991 increase in Medicaid expenditures for and around Red Willow County was nearly twice the increase, nearly twice the increase of Omaha, and that Omaha accounts for the lowest 1991 increase in Medicaid expenditures for all the Department of Social Services eight state districts. Finally, I said that Red Willow County has a higher per resident Medicaid expenditure than Sarpy County. Douglas County has lower expenditures than Furnas County. Perhaps, Mr. Editorial Writer, you would elaborate why eliminating prenatal assistance to Red Willow mothers serves your view of a greater good than "Chizek's cheap shot on an indulgent political convenience" or what Medicaid should be cut in Red Willow County to even the field. The mothers' pregnancies are not responsible for the state budget gap, neither admittedly is NCTA; neither, colleagues, are the 200 or so senior citizens, Nebraskans, threatened with eviction from nursing homes under a Social Service proposal that would save money. But I submit to you that my proposal to discuss Curtis has never, unlike some of the cuts...