

September 30, 1992 LB 1

have raised this issue on General File, but the proposal moved too quickly. I'm going to have some materials passed out for you in a little bit, and I'll revisit the issue at that time. But one of the problems with, as we are discussing here, LB 1, which is across-the-board cuts, is we have a dollar figure in mind of what will be reduced. But do we have, in fact, an idea of what will the impacts be, what specific cuts will be made, and the answer is no. When we talk about the university, the system and process they will go through will have an involvement with faculty, and staff, administrators, and they will take a number of months. And sometimes...some time down the road we will hear the consequences of the across-the-board cut that we're discussing now for the university and for some of the other agencies that are involved. So we'll go home from here, we'll have made cuts, but we will not know what the consequences of those cuts are until some time down the road. Now, we went through this before, back in I believe it was '86, in the special session, and we said we will cut the university budget, we will ask that something be done. The cuts were made and one of those cuts was to close down Curtis school, back in 1987, as I recall. Well, the furor over that rose up, the Board of Regents that had made the decision was attacked, the Governor at that time, Kay Orr, was attacked, the pressure built and the Governor came back in with legislation, in 1988, reversing that decision. And so I just want you to be aware of the fact that when you do across-the-board cuts, lump sum cuts, it's easy, it's easier perhaps than other ways to go, because you don't know what you're doing, you don't know what the consequences are. But we have to start thinking about what those consequences are and assuming responsibility for them. And a little later on I'll have some materials to pass out that I think will help illuminate what I see as the consequences for the university. And I appreciate Senator Ashford raising the issue. And although this may not be the amendment to pursue, the issue is one that needs to be pursued. And I'll raise that issue again later on this bill.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Wesely. Senator Moore.

SENATOR MOORE: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, members of the body. I think Senator Ashford raised an issue that is really troubling, not just Nebraska, but across the nation. It's one of those things that we look at...I have given many speeches on this floor about my concern over where students and student needs rank at the university. But, at the same time, I have