

September 30, 1992 LB 1, 29

of LB 29 does not close Curtis, then they ought to have a guardian, because we have effectively sent the signal that Curtis is in trouble and so the institution is on the way out. Now my good friends in the farm organizations, particularly the Farm Bureau, can come galloping out of the west and they can visit with all of you, and they will, and they will tell you how much they need Curtis. But those pleas are going to fall upon deaf ears. Senator Scottie Moore at least is forthright and up front and I don't agree with him, but...and I will not vote for LB 29. But the facts are that Curtis is going to be closed sooner rather than later, and notwithstanding all of the commitments made, all of the deals cut, all of the promises made, it's going to be closed. And the signal is LB 29. And so we just as well get that message out there and other institutions will be taking it over. I like Curtis. I thought it was a great school, had a great curriculum. I've not been out there for some time but I think it's a shame the way we can continue to pile brick and mortar in eastern Nebraska until the campus settles into the salt flats but we cannot maintain a campus out there to serve those people. Sometimes the old postage stamp theory does make some sense, but that's beside the point. I just want to say on this floor, for the record, and I want my farm friends to hear it, and I hope the press will report it, that Curtis is on the way out, period, done, kaput, over with. Anyone who thinks otherwise, as I said, needs outside help because as we get into tighter and tighter budgets, the votes aren't there. There won't be ten votes to keep Curtis open on the floor after January 1st. And maybe in the minds of the fiscal experts there shouldn't be. But let us not operate under the illusion that Curtis is going to remain a part of the university system for more than a very short period of time. I regret the closing of it. It's the passing of an era. But I also want to say that some of those good friends of mine who thought that they had worked out some compromises that would allow them to be a part of the negotiation process that would keep Curtis alive had better go back to the drawing board because it's not going to happen, in my estimation. If I'm here, I will vote to keep it open, but it's not going to be sufficient because there is not the support there within the system, the support is not there on the floor and with some exceptions perhaps the support is not even there out in the country. So whether or not Senator Wesely's amendment is adopted is immaterial because the university will soon find a way to terminate that institution. And I hope that we all recognize that and that we are at least honest with the people.