

September 30, 1992 LB 1

The people have been misled so many times by politicians. We ought not to mislead them on this issue. Thank you very much.

SENATOR CONWAY PRESIDING

SENATOR CONWAY: Thank you, Senator Schmit. Senator Warner, you're next.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I'm not going to support the reduction in the appropriation at this point but there are some things that I would like to say because there is, I think, some misunderstanding of the status. Senator Moore straightened it out but I contributed to it because I was relying on memory instead of going back and look, because I had thought that there was a line-item budget requirement when the bill was reenacted, I think, in 1988 and I had forgotten that that requirement was repealed in the statute on July 1 of '89. But, aside from that, when...and reference was made by Senator Moore as to when you look at the statute itself that is now in existence the exist...whether or not Curtis is to remain is not the issue before the Coordinating Commission. The only issue, as has been pointed out before, is whether it will be under the University of Nebraska umbrella or whether it should be, as the statute says, part of the community college that is in the North Platte area. In either event, by law, the funding is to be all state funds for those programs there. Now the Coordinating Commission would have the authority to abolish the program, and under that amendment that was adopted in LB 663, even if we appropriated the money, if the Coordinating Commission prohibited the program, it couldn't be spent, at least the General Fund money could not be spent. But, as I recall, the Coordinating Commission's report, which will now be July 1 of '93, as opposed to July 1 of '95, as far as Curtis as to primarily who should administer, under what postsecondary system will it exist and not whether or not it will exist at all. What is true, I believe, is the university Board of Regents could reduce the funding now for Curtis in some amount if they chose to do so but they couldn't completely...probably could not do all of it, at least I would guess that would be the position they would take because the statute says that they shall provide the program there but doesn't tell specifically what level of funding it should have, although there is a designated amount that they are to be spending there. But I was reluctant to change the date only because it was only a year ago that that July 1, 1995 date had