

September 30, 1992 LB 1, 29

amendment and reiterate that in setting up the school as it is, it was recognized by the Legislature and the recommendation committee that Governor Orr had put together that the campus at Curtis was a very unique type of a school that was beneficial to the entire state, therefore, the state funding for the school. Secondly, because of the nature of its programs, that the administration thereof would be properly placed with the Board of Regents and the University of Nebraska. And that was done primarily to avoid to have a costly administration on campus at Curtis to handle all of the personnel and printing and all of those types of things that are necessary for an institution of that type. It seemed at the time to be a very just and fair way to handle a school of this type. In any case, with the Postsecondary Education Commission, as described in LB 29 at this time, being required to make a decision by July 1 of '93 as to disposition of the programs and the recommendation for administration of the Curtis programs, it seems that we can't really address it adequately here at this time. Even as LB 29 was originally written that would have terminated the General Funds immediately, the fiscal note that accompanies that says the funding saving was indeterminate because of the obligations to complete the course of curriculum for those that are now there. And, in any case, those students are already there and registered for the programs for this year. So it's a moot point, to me, whether we do this at this point and take the Postsecondary Education Commission out of the cycle that we put it in there to do which is not logical, or to terminate the program by legislation that if they...if the Postsecondary Education Commission chooses to do, it's going to be the same cost in either case. It makes no sense to me. I oppose the amendment.

SENATOR CONWAY: Thank you, Senator Elmer. Senator Ashford, you're next.

SENATOR ASHFORD: Thank you, Mr. President. I'm going to just read a brief paragraph into the record and then relinquish my time to Senator Wesely, who I understand is going to pass over the amendment. But just following up with what Senator Wesely had said about UNL, I would just...would like to read into the record some information about UNO that the student head count at UNO has increased by 14 percent while enrollments at UNL and UNMC have decreased by 7 percent and 3 percent respectively. Student credit hours increased by 12.7 percent at UNO during this time period while UNL experienced a decline of 1.8 percent.