

September 30, 1992 LB 29

CLERK: The next amendment is AM79. Take that up? (The Wesely amendment appears on page 156 of the Legislative Journal.)

SENATOR WESELY: Uh-huh.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members, I have passed around for you a copy of this amendment. It's AM79SS. It's introduced by myself and Senator Chizek. It's a follow-up to some of the previous discussions we've had about the issue of Curtis. The bill, as amended currently, calls for the postsecondary continuing educa...Postsecondary Education Commission, Coordinating Commission, to do a study which they were already destined to do about Curtis. Instead of completing that study by 1995, it would be completed by July 1 of 1993. It's been a little confusing as to the status of Curtis in terms of the administrative budgetary process that we've situated it in. Supposedly it's under the administration of the University of Nebraska. Supposedly it's under the budget of the University of Nebraska but because of the statutes we had adopted a few years ago, it looks as though it's in the protected status under those entities. And so if we truly are opening up the Coordinating Commission for a review fully of the Curtis campus, it's value, it's priority, we should make it clear that it's also possible for the Coordinating Commission, if they deem it the thing to do, to close down that campus. And if you look at this, that's exactly what we're allowing, not requiring, not calling for, but at least authorizing that option. The problem is if you were the Board of Regents, and I know one of the options is that, well, the Board of Regents can review this and take action and shut them down or close them down or reduce their funding. But they went through this back in '87 and had us step in and rescind that action and left them hanging. So I'm doubting that the Board of Regents would take that step again. But the Coordinating Commission hasn't had that experience, so, as they review the situation, perhaps they will enter it with more of an open mind and again examine what ought to happen. And I'm not saying they're going to decide that Curtis should be closed. I'm not sure what decision they will reach. Perhaps they will feel it's a wonderful program that needs to be strengthened or expanded, I don't know. None of us knows that. But nevertheless right now we take off the table in that review, take off the table in the budget cutting process