

September 30, 1992 LB 10

File. And so we are now considering LB 10.

CLERK: In that instance, Mr. President, I now have an amendment to the bill by Senator Schimek. Senator, perhaps what might be appropriate is for me to read it. Would you...okay. (Read AM82 as found on pages 161-62 of the Legislative Journal.) Does that...

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Sounds correct to me, Mr. Clerk. Thank you very much. I would just like to say that for many of us on this floor we did not want to cut the benefits to the guard at all and accepting the 50 percent was indeed a compromise. Some of us on this floor felt that any time that we're investing in the young people of this state, for one, we are making an investment that will repay us ten times over. Every time somebody gets a degree, we know from studies and statistics that that person is going to make a higher salary or wage for the rest of his or her life. That person will be paying more in taxes to the State of Nebraska. The guard said, in the committee meeting, at the hearing, that most of the people in the guard stay in Nebraska. We are making an investment in these young people and we will reap the benefits. However, that's not the issue that is being addressed in this amendment. The issue is whether or not those people who signed up with the understanding that 75 percent of their tuition would be paid should be allowed to continue with that understanding. And, as I said earlier on this floor, it has been talked about that the state has the ability to change its mind in any of these programs and I think welfare was mentioned as one of those programs. My answer to that continues to be when somebody makes a commitment to the guard they are making a six-year commitment. It's not like any other program. It's not like the welfare benefits, if you will. It's not like the aid that we give to cities in the form of MIRE or anything like that. It is...it is a benefit to an individual who in return is making a commitment to the guard and to the State of Nebraska for six years. So, with that, I would simply move this amendment once again.

SENATOR CONWAY PRESIDING

SENATOR CONWAY: Thank you, Senator Schimek. Senator Coordsen, please.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Mr. President, and members of the body, until the passage of this bill, the law that is currently