

September 30, 1992 LB 10

They expect to have the money. We can't welsh our promise that we told these kids, even though we promised more students than we could. So we reluctantly gave in because of the student, and we vowed that we would get this thing solved, and we never have. And my observation is I am always intrigued particularly this session with the cuts that we made in ADC and how much of an impact and painful of an impact that will have on people who can least afford it. And many of us made that difficult decision. I look back on wards of the courts, and that even though Senator Moore is correct, it is not the full thing but still a painful decision is made not to pay for some students that probably are in desperate need as well. Then we get to the National Guard, and we didn't have enough nerve at the end to say that we are going to put a pretty good deal together, 50-50, better than what other states are doing, but also we forgot to talk about one aspect of it and that is education. Nobody mentioned the fact or I guess cared that we didn't put any guidelines on what programs they could enroll in. An example, we have doctors in the state that we give incentives and we will at times have paid a lot of money on their tuitions, if they practice in rural Nebraska. We said that Nebraska is willing to put a step forward to help, but in return we want to have something that the education will benefit Nebraskans. This program, because it is in the National Guard and because we put on our patriotic uniforms from time to time, which we should, we are not asking anything in regards to what program they take. They could take woodworking. They could take whatever it may be. No problem, we will pay. We don't necessarily...no one discussed, for example, what about tuition help for students who, in Nebraska, whose parents make too much to qualify for student aid, but they can't afford to go to school either because of what some of the things Senator Warner was talking about. We haven't done anything nor shown any desire to put that on the table to help, but, god forbid, if we do a 50-50 thing and we may have to make some painful decisions on a National Guard level, again on a program that is far superior even with the cuts than the states around us. I think sometimes we get a little tired at the end of sessions, we get a little tired of these things, but if we are going to talk about education, at some point I think the point needs to be made that if we grant tuitions, if we grant incentives for people to get an education as well as to join something or be a part of something, we should be asking what is Nebraska going to get in return for our investment on the education side? We know what we will get in return for them being a part of the National Guard on the defense side, but what