

a lot of the same reasons that Senator Abboud mentioned to take the engineering school to Omaha. That's where the jobs are at, it's where the interest is at, that's where the growth is going to be and if you're talking about maintaining jobs and interest, let me tell you, the ag community is hurting a whole lot worse than the Omaha engineering community is hurting. But we don't want to do that, or at least I assume a substantial majority of those people don't want to do that. At this point in time, what occurs is that you do have a process that is in place and this issue isn't going to be solved. Letters are going to be written back and forth, whether they're extortionist or not, but in the meantime what is going to occur is that the institution of higher education is going to suffer. As people begin to fight over the scraps and have these turf wars, the ultimate people to suffer is Nebraska because higher education itself is going to be damaged because it becomes a very large...

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: ...political pawn and that's very sad and pretty soon people's parochial interests, whether they're for Kearney, whether they're for Omaha or whether they're for Lincoln is only going to all be damaged and in the long run everyone is deeply harmed. The president has taken a pretty bold step. He came to me in December and said be a team player, don't try to make end runs for Kearney, don't try to make end runs for anyone else, and I said I'd do that providing everybody else would as well. I'm willing to stick by that commitment and I'd hope everybody else would be as well. But the point that I think gets lost is the people's whose back this is going to come out of. It's going to be UNK and faculty members for students that every one of you have that go to that institution for a basic education to become teachers in this state.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Time. Time, Senator Kristensen, you were speaking on Senator Bromm's time. Your light is on next.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: I'd call the question.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Do I see five hands? I see five hands. The question is, shall debate now cease? All in favor vote aye, opposed vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 0 nays to cease debate, Mr. President.