

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

March 24, 2006 LB 962

in the same form that we had traditionally had them was because they provided teacher training. Now what you talked about doesn't have anything to do with teacher training, does it?

SENATOR RAIKES: You're right, it does not. It's entrepreneurial and economic development.

SENATOR BROWN: And it's a graduate program.

SENATOR RAIKES: That's right.

SENATOR BROWN: For a school that is primarily supposed to be not necessarily a graduate program.

SENATOR RAIKES: That's right, Senator. It does, however...this change would put Peru State on a par with other state colleges in terms of the graduate offerings. And certainly you're correct in the historical emphasis in training teachers, but I think you'll find at Peru, as well as on the other state college campuses, the curriculum offering even at the undergraduate level has expanded into other areas and business training programs are a significant part of that. I would tell you that my discussions with the Coordinating Commission were that this was a very narrowly construed expansion of their authority to offer programs, and they have not done it. They have gone through all the correct procedures in terms of waiting for authority before they do, in fact, offer this program.

SENATOR BROWN: On a maybe more broad, philosophical level, do you have any reservations about some of the things that are being done by Peru in terms of competing with other higher education institutions? I would say specifically Creighton University in Omaha, there are billboards around Creighton that talk about the cost of doing their on-line program. I really have reservations about maintaining programs based on their physical location and then having them being competitive with other entities' physical location, using state money to subsidize that kind of competition.

SENATOR RAIKES: Senator, I do share those concerns with you. I think that there can be (inaudible) if we're not very, very