

March 2, 1983

LB 126

importantly, we know the impact it is going to have on students. I think LB 126, for those of you that are conservative in this body, offers a decent program to student aid because it isn't a giveaway program. It is not a grant program in this one respect that students are going to have to work. They are going to have to work as part of their student aid program, either on campus or someplace in the community. They are going to have to pay a good share of their own costs in addition to receiving state monies. It is a work fare program. It is something new. It is innovative. It is very timely considering the times that we operate in. But most importantly, under the new federalism program the state through this bill, 126, is exercising its responsibility to assume a new statism policy which means as the federal government rolls back its support of student aid, the State of Nebraska will pick it up. Now I know we have problems with funding this year. If there is any problem with this bill, it is just a simple fact of how much money we are able to afford in order to support it. The bill is broad based, is another asset. It looks to the student and his or her needs. It doesn't look to the institutions that are going to be receiving the students or be a beneficiary of the student aid. It simply looks at the student and says, if you are needful of student aid, we are going to judge it irrespective of what college you are going to, irrespective of what university you are going to. Most of you members realize that we are in a long session and that if another student aid bill is introduced next session in the short session, you know what will happen to it. In all likelihood it will die. It will never be heard. By killing LB 126, what you are saying, in fact, is that we are not going to look towards answering the problem of the federal cutbacks of student aid for another two years. I would hope that every member of this body would consider the dire circumstances that is likely to occur if LB 126 dies here today because of an IPP. I hope that you would oppose Senator Warner's motion. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Vard Johnson. Just before you speak, Senator, let me introduce some teachers who undoubtedly...these are guests of Senator Higgins. We understand we have teachers in the legislative Chamber undoubtedly interested in this piece of legislation, but five guests of Senator Higgins in the north balcony...under the north balcony. Welcome to the Legislature. Senator Johnson.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Mr. President and members of the body, I rise in opposition to Senator Warner's motion. We saw Congress in December decide to increase the gasoline tax so that the new revenues could be used for highway construction