

March 5, 1984

LB 970

one in particular is not being met. Let me remind you as well that LB 970 does not grant money to institutions to implement the needs of 970 at this point. It is simply enabling legislation. Only we as legislators can decide to increase appropriations to carry out this program. This is merely the first step toward meeting the intent as spelled out by LB 756 in 1978 of the Legislature. The answer may be in reallocating existing resources from one institution to another. The answer may lie in reallocating resources within a particular institution. But without 970 there is no incentive there for state colleges to reallocate resources within their own budgets nor is there any incentive for any kind of cooperation among the various institutions. Let me just speak briefly to this accreditation issue. We are essentially talking about two different populations of people here that want to be served by a graduate program. The people that I have talked to in Scottsbluff and Alliance and Chadron and Kearney and North Platte are all telling me, I want some kind of advanced graduate program, I am not looking for the kind of training that an MBA program at UNL necessarily offers. I want something that will help me in my business, something that will help me advance in my career and the matter of accreditation is not the crucial issue. The crucial issue here is access. For those people who want an accredited program, we are not proposing wiping out the program at UNL and, in fact, if that is the kind of program that meets your needs, you can go to Lincoln and enroll in that program but the majority of the people that want the kind of program that LB 970 allows simply don't have that as an option. So we only have one choice and that is either to take the program to them or to deny them access to the program. Senator Lamb talks about the possibilities for telecommunication and I would agree with him that over the long term there are terrific opportunities in this state and I will be one of the first that is out there fighting to help whichever university or college in this state that wants to bring that kind of service to our people. But I do have some background in television myself and in telecommunications. I have worked not only with ETV but also with the University of Mid-America and I can tell you that this is an expensive proposition. It is not the kind

8868