

March 28, 1984

LB 970

affected institutions in the state to sit down, propose some options, tell us what they are going to cost, tell us how much access they can provide, and my intent here is to simply promote cooperation, coordination, among the various institutions and assure access to the citizens of Nebraska.

SENATOR KAHLE: Now tell me about the termination date and what happens if no agreement is reached.

SENATOR SCOFIELD: Termination date is September 15th of this year at which time the report is presented to the Appropriations Committee and the Education Committee. I suspect that no agreement necessarily needs to be reached given the way this amendment is written. We simply ask the institutions to provide us with options and then the Legislature sits down with them, looks at the options and decides what is in the best interest of the citizens of Nebraska who want the service and what is in the best interest of the taxpayers who are going to have to pay the bill for this service.

SENATOR KAHLE: What you are really saying then is that nothing is going to happen before the next session of the Legislature. Is that correct?

SENATOR SCOFIELD: I would expect Kearney State to start offering its program the 1st of January.

SENATOR KAHLE: How would they...how would we get the funding mechanism in it then? Would that be in this bill?

SENATOR SCOFIELD: It is in there, as I understand it.

SENATOR KAHLE: So what you are doing then...I want to get this straight so we all know what we are doing...is you want to study it this summer. A decision will be made this fall then whether there can be a compromise. If no compromise, or if there is a compromise reached then, it would be possible for the state colleges to start the program January the 1st.

SENATOR SCOFIELD: Yes.