

April 9, 1984

LB 970A

Senator Warner has made an excellent case on the floor over the last several years regarding our use of our fairly finite resources for higher education. Now Senator Warner actually stood in opposition in many respects to this bill because it opened the doors too wide for our state college system. I personally felt that given the size of Kearney State College and given its previous endeavors in the MBA program that it probably ought to be able to directly confer the MBA degree and have its own staff but I didn't think that was true for Chadron or Wayne State College. However, this bill was brought to us by the State College Board of Trustees. When they brought this bill to us, they obviously had to curry favor with both Wayne State College and Chadron State College. For that reason this bill was broader than it should have been and the Governor properly exercised his scalpel and he excised from this bill those programs that simply are not ready for funding, that ought not be funded at this time, and left in this bill that one program which is mature, which is ripe, which should be funded and should be operated. So I think this is an important veto not to override but rather to sustain. In doing so, we will continue to show that we have a certain amount of care about the role and mission of our higher education programs in this state.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Landis.

SENATOR LANDIS: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I have earned my spurs on 970 and voted for it all the way through. One can hardly call me a heavyweight stepping on a lightweight in this case having been a supporter of the bill so far. Kearney has gone out of its way to show evidence of need. I am persuaded we have to have a program there. It should be well run. It should be negotiated out. We should solve that problem. Senator Scofield has given us the mechanism to do that with this committee. Fine and dandy. Beyond that I think it is a matter of having to come up with the evidence of need which so far the other two schools haven't done and, secondly, I think that is a matter for the committee to take care of and, third, we should let these negotiations go forward. The Scofield amendment I think has put us in a good position to bring these parties to the