

February 19, 1974

PRESIDENT: Thank you, the motion prevails. The debate will now close. Senator Dickinson, you may close on your motion which is to lay over LB 813.

SENATOR DICKINSON: Mr. President, with your indulgence and the indulgence of that of the body, and I would sincerely appreciate their attention. I will try to tell the story of the Eastern Nebraska Technical Community College Area, and this is what I had hoped to have time to prepare, but this unimportant thing that my colleagues keep pressing is, hurrys them so that they have not allowed me this time. This Legislature, I believe, and I would be certainly open to correction as I go along, passed a law in 1970, mandating that all areas in Nebraska attach themselves to or form a Technical Community College Area. Eastern Nebraska formed an area. It seemed the practical thing to do for these areas outside the Omaha School District and Dodge and Washington County. This was brought to a vote of the people after serious consideration and hard work by a lot of people who were interested in this area. This Legislature allowed these new areas under the new bill that was passed in that year, and I still ask respectfully to have the attention of the people here and I am not getting it. This Legislature authorized the enacting of one mill levy of all these areas. The areas that were presently in existence were levying two mills. Now after this fairness it was clearly the intent of the Legislature that the two mills be stopped and they levy one mill, and the balance of the funding come from State Funds. Well a couple of a college areas somewhere in Nebraska, and I'm not sure for right now which areas they were, seized upon this opportunity to then levy the two mills, plus the one, which made them the levy of three mills, which was not the intent of the Legislature. Some County Board in a County in Nebraska challenged this by virtue of this challenge they were not allowed to levy the three mills in the allowance of the levying of the one mill was delayed for one year, which delayed the funding of Eastern Nebraska Technical Community College Area. Many people asked the question, Why was not this area doing something. Why didn't they have a program? Because this body that created them didn't give them any money, as the law specified they should. Now there's continually pressure to merge the two areas together. Omaha and Eastern Nebraska. And the Lobbyists have been working actively claiming to represent both areas and that they are mutually agreed on merging the areas. This is absolutely not true. Over 70% of the people in a general election in the Eastern Nebraska College area voted to form this area. Now this is the vote of the people. And these people are not now being represented by three or four people going around this building telling that everyone agrees, that we are going to merge the area. All I'm asking is that with this history, that this area has been kicked around that if there is to be a merger as it states in this bill that we retain the name that seems very fitting of Eastern Nebraska Technical Community College Area, which would include all of Dodge, Douglas, Washington and Sarpy County. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: All right, the question is, shall the bill be laid over, that's the only motion before us.

(End Belt #9)