

April 9, 1974

CLERK: Nineteen ayes; 17 nays.

PRESIDENT: The Chair has once again been sustained. Are there other amendments now to LB 94?

CLERK: Yes.

PRESIDENT: Okay, let's have it.

CLERK: Mr. President, I move to return LB 94 to Select File for specific amendment; add a new section - appropriate five hundred thousand dollars for Voc Tech land acquisition and planning for metro technical school. Signed Senator Mahoney.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Mahoney.

SENATOR MAHONEY: Mr. President, since the bill was brought back and there was this money for the other project, these two technical schools are joined together and there does need to be money for land acquisition in this particular year and that is why I ask the Legislature to allow it to be part of this bill.

PRESIDENT: Is there further discussion of the proposed Mahoney amendment? Stand by, just a minute. Senator Cavanaugh?

SENATOR CAVANAUGH: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I support the amendment. The situation in Omaha again is that we are beginning to start the Metropolitan Technical College; we have no money for land acquisition or a site. There were no sites on a continuing basis either in eastern or Omaha. They will now, in order to fulfill their obligation to provide quality technical education in the Omaha area, have to begin. If we delay this another year; if we give them no funds in which to begin an adequate program, it will be another year and the Omaha technical education will continue to slip behind the rest of the State. It is unfair to allow this situation; we have been denied a one mill; we have been denied capital construction appropriations and the operating budget is not sufficient to allow us to begin to build an adequate program. This is a very important amendment and one that I think in all decency this Legislature owes to Metropolitan Technical in order to put it on the same basis or give it the start that it needs to provide quality technical education in the Omaha area.

PRESIDENT: Next to speak is Senator Frank Lewis.

SENATOR FRANK LEWIS: Mr. President, I rise to support Senator Mahoney and I think Senator Mahoney is to be complimented because the logical place to do this was on 1054, but in order to get that bill passed, 1055 rather, Senator Mahoney, along with this amendment, others withdrew it to expedite for this Body the appropriations bills. I certainly think we have debated this; I believe everyone would agree certainly that you can't provide your operational and your capital construction out of that one mill levy or the meager three or four hundred thousand dollars that the State has given to start the school. There is really a commitment to put a first class, quality voc tech school in the metropolitan area. To correct Senator Cavanaugh a little bit, it is not the Omaha area, it is the metropolitan area. I certainly think this is the way to get it off the ground; get the structure started; provide the program and provide good technical education from the Missouri River to the extent of the Panhandle.