

February 27, 1979

LB 141

one of them did come into Omaha, a college out of Illinois, and offered courses in nursing which was the same course being offered at UNO. In addition it would transfer from the Department of Public Instruction, a responsibility to the commission to approve or disapprove the establishment of new private independent colleges in the State of Nebraska and, thirdly, the commission would also be entitled to review all proprietary colleges which may indeed establish a college in the State of Nebraska. The other day I handed out to you a cartoon. It would symbolize an octopus. The purpose of the octopus was that colleges today in search of students and in search of dollars, in many cases, are establishing all kinds of programs in other states. The best example would be Florida where in the past year and a half thirty-nine different institutions, all the way from the west coast, have tried to move into the State of Florida and set up certain kinds of programs. As I said the other day also and I will repeat one more time, I am not trying to give this commission a great deal of power but I am trying to give them a responsibility which I think is rightfully theirs and that is to take a look at all postsecondary education and to give some kind of assurance to the citizens of this state that when indeed a college is approved in this state, regardless of whether it is a private, proprietary or independent, that indeed the college is credible and the courses that people pay for will be eligible for a transfer. That is the purpose of this commission. I don't know what the problem was the other day when we discussed LB 141. First of all, Senator Murphy thought it was going to increase the budget severely. That is not correct. These few authorities given to the commission does not increase their budget. The Governor's proposal for the commission this year is \$67,219 and I am certain that is about where they are going to be. In fact the past few years their budget last year was \$64,708 so whatever that fiscal impact was in the book, certainly it was inaccurate. The commission can take over these endeavors and will not increase their needs in terms of fiscal need. They will assume this responsibility without additional cost and so, members of this body, I am serious in asking you this morning to reconsider our action to LB 141. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The Chair recognizes Senator Cullan.

SENATOR CULLAN: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I rise in opposition to Senator Koch's motion to reconsider our action. I think there was a discussion of this bill last week and the Legislature properly decided