

be placed in regular classrooms, not special education classes. At the same time more severely handicapped youngsters are entering public schools for the first time, Mrs. Hartnett said. Her survey undertaken for a recently completed doctoral dissertation at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, was partially an attempt to see how teachers were reacting to the handicapped, she said. Her respondents were teachers in Columbus, Norfolk, Elkhorn, South Sioux City and North Platte, she said. 'I found that for the most part teachers are concerned about doing a good job for all kids, handicapped and nonhandicapped', Mrs. Hartnett said. Instead of ignoring a handicapped child's wheelchair or hearing aid for example, teachers may ask the youngster to explain in detail how these devices work, why they are necessary and when they were obtained, Mrs. Hartnett said. Teachers questioned also are recognizing that handicapped youngsters have something to offer to so-called "normal" children. 'The handicapped child helps the normal child with math while the normal child pushes the handicapped youngster's wheelchair', Mrs. Hartnett said. Another speaker, John Yost, Professor of History at UNL warned that those concerned with the handicapped must have a "caring attitude". That means recognizing "rights, needs, individualized desire and even quirks" of the handicapped, said Yost, acting chairman of UNL's History Department. 'We need to humanize the many helping professors (which are) filled too much by technocrats', Yost said. Charles Dickel, an assistant Professor of Education at Creighton said, parents of the handicapped go through stages similar to those experienced by the dying, denial, rage and finally acceptance. 'All parents must accept the fact that the child of their dreams and fantasies never was and never will be', Dickel said. This acceptance comes sooner with the handicapped child, he said. 'Let the child of your mind die. Let the real child live. There are joys in parenting an exceptional (handicapped) child. They are the same joys as in parenting a nonexceptional child', but the reason those joys are not the same is because of society's attitude and I will give you a little Aesop type fable to make the point. There was a blind man with very strong legs and there was a crippled man with very good eyes. Neither was able to function alone so somehow they were brought into contact with each other and the strong man said, I will be your legs if you will be my eyes. So we as a Legislature this morning have the opportunity to do something for all of those people whose unfortunate circumstance is made even more unfortunate