

March 26, 1979

LB 116

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. Chairman, I will move adoption of the committee amendment and Senator Fowler would probably like to explain further but the bill as originally introduced was to establish a Nebraska Arts Bank Act and after Senator Fowler introduced it it was...we became aware that there is a comparable program currently at Kearney and the bill was subsequently amended to fit in with a program that is already in operation. I will ask Senator Fowler to explain it in more detail.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Fowler.

SENATOR FOWLER: As Senator Warner has explained, the amendments alter the nature of the bill considerably from its original concept and the reason for this is that unknown to me the idea had already been conceived and implemented by Kearney State College and that after visiting with people at Kearney State College it was felt that rather than try and create a competing state program that the thing that would be most advantageous to them would be simply to turn the bill into an official designation or recognition of the art collection that Kearney had developed. So that is what the committee amendments would do, eliminating any fiscal impact with the bill. Let me say that again. Adoption of the committee amendments would eliminate any fiscal impact with the bill. Senator Cope certainly would then support the bill. Essentially the concept was this and it has been adopted in other states is to try and create some sort of collection that would recognize the work of Nebraska artists and develop a collection that could then be exhibited around the state demonstrating to Nebraskans the work that had been done by those either trained in Nebraska, those born in Nebraska or those living in Nebraska. So the amendments would name the thing as the Nebraska Art Collection Act. It would state the purpose which basically is to encourage and assist the artistic creations of Nebraska artists. It defines art and defines what a Nebraska artist is and the essential difference between the original bill and the amendments is that it turns it over to the Board of Trustees of the Nebraska State Colleges to establish this art collection program at Kearney State College which is already in existence as a private entity affiliated with the college and that it would enable them to provide for a curator and so on. There is some language in there that the art would be representative of Nebraska's ethnic racial minority and cultural groups. It indicates that the art should be shared and displayed with the public. It lets the board of trustees set up procedures to accept donations or loans of art. It also lets the board of