

March 28, 1979

LB 291

SPEAKER MARVEL: LB 291.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 291. Title read. The bill was first read on January 16. It was referred to the Education Committee. It was advanced to General File. There are no amendments pending, Mr. President.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Koch.

SENATOR KOCH: Mr. Speaker and members of the body, very briefly the purpose of LB 291 is to create a compact of states. It would take six states to initiate the compact. The total number of states that would be eligible would be fifteen if all legislatures were to initiate this type of legislative action. The effect of the compact would not take place until approximately 1981 but there are several benefits that would be derived by the various states who would choose to enter this compact. Probably one of the most important would be that we would look at the educational facilities of the postsecondary schools among these various states and be able to arrive at certain kinds of reciprocal agreements where some of our students would be able to take advantage of certain kinds of schools that are presently in place. As one example would be optometry. Presently Nebraska has students who search and seek this type of education. Another one could well be and that could be in veterinarian medicine. As you all know this body has a sincere interest in veterinarian medicine, but there again if we were to enter into such a compact, we might be able to more readily provide the students of this state seats in veterinarian medicine that now sometimes are scarce. Presently virtually all of the states of this nation are involved in compacts, and I will remind you of those very quickly. We have the New England Board of Higher Education. We have the Southern Regional Education Board. We have one commonly referred to as WICHE, which is the Western Interstate Commission on Higher Education. This particular regional institution has been in place for quite a number of years. A secondary thrust I think that is important of a compact would be that it would serve as a clearing house on educational research particularly with our neighboring states as it might effect us and be of value to us as Senators and to the citizens of the State of Nebraska as well. The prime introducer of this bill generally is Senator Frank Lewis who as Chairman of the Education Committee previously spent considerable amount of time visiting with other individuals of other states about the feasibility of this type of legislation. The board that would control the compact in each state would be five members, the Governor or