

April 2, 1979

LB 116

Senator Fowler, may I ask you a question. There is an Arts Council, isn't there now, in existence?

SENATOR FOWLER: Correct.

SENATOR NICHOL: Yes, and don't they handle state money and pass that around to the various communities for musical groups, acting groups, construction of some area... in some areas around the state?

SENATOR FOWLER: Correct.

SENATOR NICHOL: Right. Don't they...aren't they somewhat of a central focal point for all arts in the state of Nebraska? Or at least I consider them as such.

SENATOR FOWLER: They're the state agency to work with the arts, right.

SENATOR NICHOL: What is the matter with funneling the money through that agency rather than setting up another agency whereby we can spend money?

SENATOR FOWLER: The original bill that I had had this as a sub-program in the Nebraska Arts Council. The Nebraska Arts Council contacted me and said, they had no real objection to that except that the program had already begun at Kearney State College, and they thought it would make more sense to directly, as the amended bill provides, establish that program in Kearney State College rather than set up a duplicate program. So the Director of the State Arts...the original bill had this as a sub-program of the Arts Council. I was going along with the thinking exactly that you have, and they contacted me, brought to my attention the program that Senator Cope explained earlier that it started at Kearney State College and they said that it would make more sense for the state to acknowledge and support that program than to set up a competitive program through the Arts Council. So recognizing their perspective and their expertise in the arts, I went along with their suggestion.

SENATOR NICHOL: Thank you, Senator Fowler. Ladies and gentlemen, the only thing I would say is we have an entity for disbursement of funds. Let's continue to use it. I have no objection to Kearney State doing whatever they want to do, but it comes to a point here...the other day Senator Cope said, no we're not here asking for money. Now when it comes down to we're saying in the bill we're not