

May 9, 1979

LB 363

perhaps urge these counties to get their job done out there.

SENATOR KOCH: I agree with you on that.

SENATOR KAHLE: Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL PRESIDING

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Lewis.

SENATOR LEWIS: Mr. President, there is three joys that I have had in my life. One, is always having quality cigars the other is always having quality RC Cola and the other was resigning as the Chairman of the Education Committee and I swore that I wasn't going to get on this issue but I am. Now first of all, a number of you and I was very proud of you last year when you stuck your necks out because Western had a problem. Senator Nichol and Senator Cullan were both instrumental in LB 803, if that is the number, Senator Nichol, and I believe it is, that we said you've got a problem out there and we are going to give you a temporary relief for one year for \$500,000 and that was a tough decision for me because that came out of the pockets in Omaha and that came out of the pockets in North Platte and that came out of the pockets in Columbus and so forth. I personally have met with the Western board, in fact, I am on my way back out there tomorrow for a commencement thing and I said, what do you guys want to do about your problem? They said, we are willing to talk to the people about a mill levy, about supporting this institution because I told them that we could no longer continue to finance them at the expense of the other community colleges. I am prepared to support this amendment as a solution or I am prepared as an alternate solution to abolish Western as an institution. If they cannot finance it and we don't want to finance it, maybe we need to get back to five. Maybe that is the approach. We combine Western with North Platte and have no institution at Sidney and have no institution at Scottsbluff and have no program at Alliance. Now there is a legitimate way to address this problem. I am prepared to let those people out there on that board and they are a good board, Bill Nichol, and I have got a lot of respect for a lot of those guys that have done a good job out there, but if we really want to play push and shove on this issue and let me tell you, if you took a popularity poll among the community technical colleges administration and board, I don't think I would finish first. In fact, we had to