

January 15, 1980

LB 108

is and they don't want to link up with N.S.E.A. Now the faculty is not of one accord. There are two distinct groups in the Chadron campus. That has been a problem and unfortunately for N.S.E.A. they have not been able to swallow all the dissidents who do not want to bargain with them. So we have now a bill that is supported not only by the administration but also by a labor organization that wants to take control of that campus as well as the other three campuses. The argument that is used now in favor of LB 108 because I talked about it with some other senators the other day is that the lawsuit that is currently going on is going so slowly that we can't bargain. We are being held up. These people are not having representation. The difficulty with that is that the reason that there is no bargaining is because the lawsuit is going on by the very people who want this bill. In Yiddish I believe there is an expression for a person who kills their mother and father and then throws themselves on the mercy of the court saying, "But Your Honor, I am an orphan." Yes, well that is what we have here with the N.S.E.A. because the N.S.E.A. along with the Board of Administration says, "We want a lawsuit because we didn't like the result of the Court of Industrial Relations but because of this lawsuit it is going very slowly. We can't bargain. If there wasn't this darn lawsuit which we are pursuing, why we could get down to business." That is a very untenable position I think for a lobbying organization to take. However, because it happens to be a formidable and a powerful lobbying organization nobody is calling them on it and this bill probably has a very healthy future ahead of it, even though I find no merit behind the bill. Now the coalition of administrators and powerful labor organization that this bill represents has not been able to show you, to my knowledge, people that support LB 108. Now I use the word "people". Take a look at the committee hearing statement. You will find the proponents are lobbyists in favor of the administration or lobbyists in favor of N.S.E.A. What kind of mail have you had on LB 108 if any? If you have been like me, you have had a group of letters from people, individuals, who live either at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln or Omaha, which were angry at the original principle as announced or the people from Chadron who don't want it applied to them. I would like to quote one of the letters because I don't think that the lobbyists in favor of LB 108 can show you the same kind of personal involvement with it that the opponents can. This is a letter from James Kauss. It is one of perhaps a dozen letters I have received about LB 108.

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