

"I believe it was 1967 that the Legislature passed the Professional Negotiations Act which gave the Nebraska state colleges and their teachers the right to bargain with the Board of Trustees on salaries and conditions of employment. The N.S.E.A. created the Higher Education Association of Nebraska, HEAN, which became the bargaining unit for the four state colleges and carried on the negotiations until the Court of Industrial Relations declared the unit illegal in 1977. Herb Schimek was the N.S.E.A. appointed negotiator for HEAN and he thought it was probably the college administrator should vote on who local negotiators should be and appeared to be more concerned with what our college president wanted than with what the teacher, faculties interests were." Now this is a strongly felt dissident and there is no intent here to ascribe evil or malicious intent. I am just reporting what his letter says. "As a consequence, money that was appropriated by the Legislature for faculty salaries were used for other purposes. Efforts to clean up the negotiations process from the inside failed and it was necessary for a group of Chadron State College faculty to take HEAN and the Board of Trustees to court. When the CIR declared the sweetheart agreement between HEAN," you should read N.S.E.A. there, "and the Board of Trustees illegal, the N.S.E.A. quickly formed another unit and again tried to force a statewide bargaining unit for the state's four colleges. Not wanting the N.S.E.A. to be involved with our bargaining units it was necessary to go back to the court which again ruled in favor of the Chadron faculty members, namely that we could have a separate bargaining unit. The N.S.E.A. along with the Board of Trustees appealed this decision to the State Supreme Court. I am sure they do not expect the CIR decision to be reversed but it does give them enough time to get LB 108 introduced. If the N.S.E.A. lobby is strong enough to get LB 108 passed the ruling of the court becomes moot." The point is that lawsuit goes on because of a coalition of interests and to come here and say, gosh, we just can't bargain for our people because of judicial tangles is less than a straightforward position to take. The newspapers label the N.S.E.A. the most powerful lobby of the Legislature. It is often pointed to in that way, and when the story of this bill is written that will be the underlying principle involved. The knowledge of this body and the knowledge of this body on the law of labor negotiations and representations is infinitesimal. You could put it in a thimble and have room for a very fat thumb. More than any other question addressed to me about this bill is, what is it? What does it do? I don't understand, and I am the one who is being addressed this question