

March 25, 1980

LB 999

SENATOR CLARK: Record the vote.

CLERK: 27 ayes, no nays to cease debate, Mr. President.

SENATOR CLARK: Debate is ceased. Senator Johnson, do you wish to close?

SENATOR JOHNSON: Yes, I do. Mr. President and members of the body, this is a serious amendment. I am trying in a serious fashion to deal with a problem that is going to recur until it is finally disposed of. Now some members in the body are saying to me that there is a certain degree of absurdity in my amendment in a sense that if my amendment were to pass that means that the 2.3 million dollars we have already put into the Physical Education Building will not be realized. That means simply that the Physical Education Building is not usable. Now I, ten days ago, went through the Physical Education Building. It is usable. I don't know why it is not usable. The thing that it won't have is large locker rooms. It has still got locker rooms mind you. It has got two small locker rooms but it won't have large locker rooms. That is what it won't have. That is what Major Hall is to be used for, to put in large locker rooms. Major Hall also is to be used for a weight room. They are going to build a weight room because the Physical Education Building doesn't have it. Majors Hall also is to be used for a well baby clinic for the persons in southeast Nebraska. That is a very admirable purpose in my opinion, however, Peru State campus already has a well baby clinic facility. So it doesn't necessarily have to be used. Now the truth of the matter is we are dealing with an institution from which many fine people have graduated that has done an excellent job in educating a number of persons but an institution that probably cannot justify continued existence at taxpayer expense any longer and I think that the time has come for us to take a hard look at Peru State and for us to ultimately phase it out and believing that in my heart, believing that in my heart, I cannot justify our expenditure of 300,000 additional dollars to Peru State to renovate a facility nor can I justify in my heart, our continued, our leasing space in Majors Hall particularly since I know that people from southeast Nebraska represented two years ago to this body that they would raise enough money for the state to buy Majors Hall and that representation has not been satisfied. We have not raised the \$300,000. All there is right now is \$30,000 that is in the kitty. So what is happening simply is that when folk in southeast