

April 14, 1980

LB 1004

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Cullan. Then we will take up Senator Dworak's amendment.

SENATOR CULLAN: Okay. Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I would like to request your attention for a second as we...and ask you to look at LB 1004, specifically subsections 10 and 11 in the bill, and they are on page 19 and page 20. LB 1004 is an intent bill and sometimes we don't pay a great deal of attention to these particular bills because there is a little concern as to what the substantive effect of an intent bill may be, but there is no doubt that while the legal effect of the bill may be questionable that the practical effect of the way intent bills affect state government can be tremendous, and so I think it behooves us to take a look at some of the sections of this particular bill. In reading the bill, there are two sections...two subsections that concern me and they are subsection 10 and subsection 11 that deal with the state colleges. They concern me because in my opinion they do conflict with existing state statute as far as the role and mission of the state colleges of the State of Nebraska are concerned. Several years ago a number of members of this Legislature participated in the role and mission study process and we wrote LB 756 which prescribed the role and mission of the Postsecondary Educational Institutions in the State of Nebraska. Section 36 of that bill or section 85-952 of current statutes says that the state colleges may continue to deliver academic transfer and pre-professional associate degree programs for which a degree may be awarded. The state colleges shall not independently award the associate degree, diploma or certificate for terminal, vocational, technical programs after September 1st of 1980. That is the substantive language in existing state law to which I refer. That, of course, will not be repealed by the intent bill, but the intent bill specifically prohibits or says it is the intent of the Legislature that Chadron State College and Peru do not offer certain programs, and some of these programs, I think, are academic programs. For example, accounting, and criminal justice, and other academic oriented programs. Some of them are technical, but the state colleges tell me that the technical programs that they offer for which a two-year associate degree is available are technical programs that are part of an existing four-year curriculum for individuals in those disciplines. I would ask you to strike subsections 10 and 11 because I believe that they conflict with existing state law. I think if we wish to change the role and mission of the state colleges or any other Postsecondary Educational Institution, that we should change that role and

10063