

SENATOR HANNIBAL: That decision is out of our hands and I want to be on record that we did not accept the level and the item for item measures that they submitted to us and, as a matter of fact, I reject those and I wanted that to be a part of this record so that that decision is made by the Board of Regents.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Landis, then Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR LANDIS: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I intend to endorse the committee amendments and in particular the one that has to do with higher education. I have passed out to your desks this morning a letter that was sent to me by Provost Lee Jones of the University that reviews what kind of contributions the University can make for economic development pointing out that it is through the University that we are most likely to be able to locate the industries that are willing and likely to be attracted to Nebraska; secondly, that strong research programs at the University are an attraction to industry and those depend on recent research developments. Those kinds of businesses that have to follow the trends and technology follow the makers of technology and the makers of research developments and those are higher educational sources; third, that the University is able to offer continuing education programs that can educate the firms of companies located in Nebraska and who choose to be located in here which, in itself, is an attraction to certain kinds of industries; fourth, that the University offers economic advice and assistance to businesses in the form of the Bureau of Business Research, the Business Development Center, the Center for Applied Urban Research and the Agricultural Research Division. These are essential functions and, as a matter of fact, it was the Business Development Center who just last week offered the Small Business White House Conference support that allowed for that conference to take place, calling together small business leaders in this state and listening to their recommendations for changes in federal and state policy. Lastly, the state's investment in University research seems sometimes unrelated to the state's economy and yet there are many, many examples, not only in this state, but others, in which University led research has been followed by private sector investment. One of the examples in the...