

merit which a number of programs have, what was your reason as chairman of the committee in not opposing the dealing with this program differently from all of the others when all we're looking at is the need to cut money out of the budget? What was your rationale, if you don't mind sharing it with me as quickly as you can?

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Warner, please.

SENATOR WARNER: Senator Chambers, there is a variety of things that are a factor in the Scottsbluff thing. One of the things, there is a broad policy that I'm very interested in and in the long run I think it is exceedingly important as a cooperative effort. This particular program involves Western Tech, it involves Chadron, it involves the med school, it involves the local hospital, so you've got a cooperative effort between three distinct different agencies for postsecondary education. That, I think, is beneficial. Secondly, currently and for a number of years, for that fact, the med center has already had out in Scottsbluff the continuing education program for nursing, so it's not like something that was never there before. There has been a base program there. Then the fact that has also been indicated, that essentially west of Kearney there is no other program, there is an access issue there that, in connection with everything else, it seems to have merit.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: So when you say access, and so that I'll understand what people mean, that means to make it more readily available to the people in a given area, because they do have access...

SENATOR WARNER: And as I believe Senator Scofield pointed out, we're talking 300 miles as opposed to...as the option which is somewhat significant I suppose.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. None of those reasons that anybody has given are substantial enough to distinguish this program from others when it comes to the value they have. But did you hear what Senator Goodrich said? Some money has already been spent, which can be said about other programs. They are trying to recruit people for the program.

SPEAKER NICHOL: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: There are other programs where obligations are being assumed but they are being cut anyway. He mentioned