

March 28, 1973

(Start Belt #5)

but I don't see why the legislature should fear to discuss the issue, and if it comes on the floor, I will not have anything else to say about it, except to support it, and vote to put it on the ballot.

PRESIDENT: Before we move on to the next speaker, the Chair would like the prerogative of calling to the attention of the body that up there in the south balcony, and I see Senator Richendifer is with them, are ten K6 students from Burt County District #43, and they've come all the way in from Oakland, Nebraska, this morning in order to visit the Nebraska Unicameral Legislature with their instructor Connie Shields and we are glad that you are here today to visit and to hear the discussion here of LB 323, which would place before the people in Nebraska, a constitutional amendment relating to the board of regents and a possible student representative. Now the Chair has a little bit of a problem, Senator Proud, and Senator Syas, who have both spoken once, are next in line, but I wonder if Senator Proud if you would yield the floor, and Senator Syas if you would yield to someone who has not spoken on the issue at all. Very good, they're gentlemen about this, so Senator Fowler, then, you have not spoken on the issue and then I'd like to recognize Senator Cavanaugh, after that, and then Senator Stromer.

SENATOR FOWLER: Mr. Chairman and members of the legislature, I'm glad Senator Simpson cleared up the question of who actually has the University campus in his district. I do have students in my district and I was a student when I ran, although I've recently dropped out of the institution, I may return, I guess I'd like to discuss this question of students running directly for the board of regents from districts and why I feel this isn't really the answer to what we are trying to get at. Now the way the board of regents districts are drawn, if any student is to run for the board of regents, he would be elected by a majority of people who are not students, there is another district that has the majority that is students. Now district election means anything and if the board of regents are to represent the people in the district and that person whether or not, he has been a student or currently a student, should not just be representing student interests and probably should be representing those of the majority of the people in his district, which are not students. So if we are talking about the question of students as the primary consumer in the University, those who pay tuition, those that are most directly affected by the institution, to have a student elected from a district isn't going to solve the question of having student representation and student input in the decision making. Cause as I say, the person elected from a district should not just represent the student view. So I think the answer is, as Senator Marvel has proposed, to give the student a representative on the board of regents, to give them a person who would have direct input into the decision making. I can't agree with Senator Kelly that the open meetings while it would solve the problem, I'm very familiar with the closed meetings that the board of regents have had in the past or at least some of them, I'm not aware of all of them, I'm sure, but the open meeting law only let's students see the discussion, or some of the discussion, I think that there is even with an open meeting law with the board of regents there is going to be closed discussion, it does not give the students any sort of real input, any sort of power on the board, I think that this would not provide the answer that we are looking for. So I would support the effort to raise the bill from the committee.

PRESIDENT: The Chair next recognizes Senator Cavanaugh. Senator Cavanaugh passing, Senator Stromer did you wish to be heard on the issue?

SENATOR STROMER: Mr. President I would move the previous question.