

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman, and members of the Legislature, and Senator Withem especially, I appreciate this article you handed around. The existence of this bill had done some good already. It has forced some people on the Board of Regents to acknowledge that coordination is necessary. In fact, they have not been doing anything to coordinate, and this article comes, so the student will get credit for it, from the UN-O Gateway, March 20, 1990, by Greg Kozol, and it talks about them reviving this coordinating council that was created in 1986, haven't had a meeting since 1988, but all of a sudden, they are going to revive it and dust the cobwebs off, as the student said, and do something about coordinating and, as always happens in one of these situations, the people who are the ringleaders say that what is happening in the Legislature has nothing to do with it. And I would like to read these few comments from the student's article. "Both Hansen", who is a board member, a regent, "and Board of Regents Chairman Don Blank said reconvening the council is not a reaction to state legislators considering the restructuring of Nebraska's higher education. Currently, the Legislature is considering a resolution that would abolish the Board of Regents and create an 11-member board designed to improve coordination between Nebraska's public universities and state colleges." Then the article goes on to quote these individuals talking about the necessity of having coordination, how they ought to have more meetings and do something, but it ought to be done within the existing framework. What we have is the best argument against relying on the existing framework because within that framework they could have been having these meetings. They could be discussing these various subjects that all of a sudden are very important now. So when you have an existing framework designed to get at a problem and it does not, then it is clear that existing framework is inadequate. So I say, again, we ought to defeat the bracket motion, and I wish Senator Withem had not offered a bracket motion but just let us talk about the bill, which is what we are doing anyway and vote on the bill. There has been too much work and it has come too far and I just hate to see at this late stage in the game that the bill is going to be just bracketed. We are discussing it as much as we would anyway, and I think there has been substantive discussion. There is a chance that some people's mind may be changed in the same way that mine was. I have something else that was underlined. Let me read it from the article. "Everyone agrees we need coordination," Blank said. "They should meet more often." But the fact is, they are not meeting at all. So why did they just come to the realization that