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LB 543

SENATOR CONNEALY: ...than the public institutions. That was the diversity I was talking about.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: So you don't mean racial or gender diversity. That's not what you were referring to...

SENATOR CONNEALY: Diversity of options for the students and for the product that comes out of institutions in Nebraska.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: But here's the question. You were not talking about racial diversity when you used that term.

SENATOR CONNEALY: No.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Members of the Legislature, he couldn't make that statement, and I know it and he knows it. He just seized on that word in the same way people have seized on other words to throw them into this pot, even when they don't belong. I hope you will vote to return this bill and adopt my amendment.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Further debate on the motion to return to Select File? Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President. I think I've squelched the opposition. Usually, when Senator Connealy speaks, all of his followers pop up like dandelions on a lawn and they start speaking, too. But since I've spiked his gun, the rest of them I don't have to worry about. Members of the Legislature, what chance do I think this amendment has of passage? None, but I am doing what I feel is absolutely necessary. This budget bill is going to get a no vote from one person, that one person is me. It contains a provision that I think violates the Constitution of the state of Nebraska. I don't think it just violates the spirit; I think it violates an explicit requirement. Now, let us not talk about church and state. I see Senator Kristensen there and I'd like to ask him a