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LB 357

I generally agree with what Senator Kahle has said, however, I would just like to remind the members of the body that this body here can come back next year and review what's taking place and if they're not pleased with the progress or the lack of progress that's being made we can at that time take action, and I would be very reluctant, Senator Hoagland, at this time to accept your amendment because I think it might cause us some concern and, in fact, it might be used as an alibi for some of the contracting agencies, and I would not want to give them that excuse if I could help it, so reluctantly I would oppose your amendment.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Newell, do you wish to be recognized on the Hoagland amendment?

SENATOR NEWELL: Mr. President and members of the body, I was originally going to rise to oppose the Hoagland amendment on the prospect that it would make it too palatable for some people and they might support the bill. But since Senator Schmit rose I wonder if I should not support it because it's obviously not going to do that, or maybe it is, I don't know exactly what the situation is. I will say this. I am just utterly amazed and shocked at how easy this bill has moved. In fact, it's not often we have such bad ideas that are so strong. Usually there is some conscience that deals with members of the Legislature and we come to our senses somewhere along the line and we don't carry through with bad ideas that cost a great deal of money, staff and long term commitments, but this may be the exception rather than the exception to the rule or the exception that proves the rule. I would rather see this program, or this proposal die right here and now, but it doesn't look like it's going to do that. For that reason I do think we ought to, instead of languishing around, adopt the Hoagland amendment. Two years I think is plenty of time. I think it will unfortunately make the bill a little more palatable, but two years is plenty of time to determine whether or not those other states that have been supposedly going to join us in this endeavor will, in fact, join us in this endeavor, or whether Nebraska will as will eventually happen end up paying the primary...be the primary provider of the educational services for this five-state region at very reduced rates. I would support the Hoagland amendment. I think it is reasonable fiscal policy, and I still think the bill is a bad bill and one we ought not embark upon at this time, but that isn't...my thoughts on this subject were surprisingly weak off General