

schools, it doesn't make the cost less painful. So I believe that a voluntary mechanism is at least what we can do. I have had good cooperation from the Department of Revenue, from the banking sector, from the university, the education sector. Almost all suggestions have been adopted to guarantee the mechanism will work. I am confident, for example, that it is compatible with federal legislation that allows a credit for interest on federal bonds cashed in for educational cost. People could participate in both programs or either one. Savings and benefits would be realized. It's compatible with student aid and with targeted student aid, and that's not only my feeling but something that was confirmed by the educational sector. So it's my hope, colleagues, that we're ready to take this step that mandates very little but will mean much to families. We have provided optimum choice. We are at ease with federal legislation. We have deliberately not gone the route of creating a new state agency or putting this state into the bond business to get this done. Under the bill, we would be able to say that we have plugged a gap in the higher education equation. Tuition, we won't have to say to our constituents, yes, we have taxed you to retain quality faculty, to enhance research, to build good schools, but we forgot to do anything to help you send your child to the school we taxed you for to make it a fine school. Surely we can commit to this undertaking of helping the citizens of Nebraska. I would appreciate your support for the bill.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. We have a couple of speakers but I would like to call on Speaker Barrett so that he can guide us until noon so you will know what's coming up. Speaker Barrett.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you, Mr. President, and members, with your permission I would again like to advance a few bills presently on Select File to the next stage, those bills that do not have amendments on them. If you would like to take a moment and check the bills with me so you can be thinking about it in the next 10 minutes, they start with LB 231. It's unamended and we can perhaps move the bill. The next one is 366, LB 55, LB 127, LB 167, LB 184, and LB 185, LB 342 and 344, LBs 195, 198 and 209. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Back to LB 140, Senator Owen Elmer, please.

SENATOR ELMER: Thank you, Mr. President and members. I rise in