

April 5, 1989

LB 651

SENATOR HALL: I don't have anything on the committee amendments.

PRESIDENT: Senator Nelson, on the committee amendments.

SENATOR NELSON: No, I'll speak to the bill.

PRESIDENT: All right. Senator Schellpeper, on the committee amendments? All right. Now we're back to the closing on the committee amendments. Senator Withem, would you like to close on that?

SENATOR WITHEM: I'd like to close just simply by adding to Senator Hall's response to Senator Warner's question, and maybe taking a slightly different interpretation. As I understand the SSIG program, it is not aid...we always talk about it as aid to public institutions or aid to private institutions. It is aid to students. People that understand the program understand that, but there may, with the line of questioning there before, may have confused that point. I think it's aid to students that qualify and the question is, will there be more students attending private schools that qualify for SSIG under this manner of distributing dollars versus the other manner of distributing dollars? And that's really questionable either way because it depends on what particular level of financial resources they set as a cap. That power is being delegated to the coordinating commission in this bill. It also depends on the relative number of students and their incomes that attend different institutions. I guess as a practical matter though, however, 651 clarifies that when you determine the whole financial need of the student that one of the factors you consider is the cost of attending the institution. And because the cost of attending institutions is higher at private institutions than it is at public institutions, there probably will be a few more dollars that flow, even with the committee amendments, although it's questionable whether the committee amendments will...questionable determining how much because of where this cap level is set, but there probably will be more dollars flowing to students attending private institutions than there are under the current manner of distribution. With that further clarification, put the term "clarification" in quote marks if you'd like to. I don't know if that clarified things for you with that explanation. What the committee amendments do is that they are an attempt by the committee to answer the