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LB 651

really think, as we talk about public funds and their priorities and where they ought to go to and private education and their desire and need to be independent, these sort of constitutional and fundamental questions need to be brought up and thought about by all of us. And so I have real reluctance to support the bill at this point, but I understand the feeling that there is nothing here to be worried about and so I'm reluctant to oppose it as well, but I think these concerns need to be expressed as we get into it, perhaps on Select File.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Owen Elmer, please, followed by Senator Withem.

SENATOR ELMER: Mr. President, I have similar reservations to what Senator Wesely has, but reading the change that is being made to the statute, the money is currently distributed at the discretion of the commission and this would change the wording to, based on the order of greatest substantial financial need. Now I would ask, doesn't this restrict the commission to only financial need? Is that the way you would interpret this, Senator Hall?

SENATOR HALL: I'm sorry, Senator Elmer.

SENATOR ELMER: Pardon me, I'll rephrase the question. The way this bill was presented it appears that the commission who grants these scholarships must grant it based only on financial need. Is that correct?

SENATOR HALL: Primarily.

SENATOR ELMER: It seems to be a tremendous narrowing from the discretion of the commission to only financial need. Now what about the student who would apply that patently is unable to complete a four-year college course?

SENATOR HALL: You mean an individual that would not have the background, so to speak, or the educational base to complete the four-year program? Somebody who wasn't smart enough...

SENATOR ELMER: Somebody that has not the mental capacity to earn a B.A. degree at a college level.

SENATOR HALL: I guess, Senator Elmer, if they are eligible to enter the college, then they would be eligible to apply for one