

saw a competing university out there even though it was not given the status of university, and I saw something competing for what I wanted for my institution, one of the things that I would consider, how could I control that institution?

PRESIDENT: Time.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: And this would certainly be a way for the university to control that institution by making it a part of that institution, and I wanted to get that at least on the record. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Lowell Johnson, followed by Senator McFarland.

SENATOR L. JOHNSON: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I rise in opposition to the Wesely amendment. As the comments have emanated here this morning and during the past few days in a steady, but a real positive pace on LB 247 along with its attendant amendments, I have perceived that there is a real element of vision in each word spoken. It is the vision and the hope of and for an improved and extended delivery of postsecondary education in Nebraska. It is a vision that has been cleared more and more by already completed studies of many groups including citizens across the state and specialists and former Nebraskans from many places. The studies over the several years have addressed many of the concerns expressed by senators here in discussion this morning. They have included the provision for convenient geographic access for our students, providing quality programs and accountability, providing maximum efficiency through coordination of programs and policies, providing for long-term, long-range research and service to every citizen and to education, industry and agriculture in Nebraska, to provide for enlightened and maximum administrative and business judgment of the system. Now further subjective studies are wisely provided for in this bill, but we must remember I believe that time in this global society is ticking away relentlessly. We risk our future if we permit undue delay in our decisions to enhance our citizens' ability to cope and compete in the society tomorrow. With a history of visionary steps in Nebraska, such as the development of public power or natural resources stewardship, economic development, educational TV and communications as well as our own Unicameral system, dare we do less today for the issue before us? Let's take advantage of this timely and unique window of opportunity and confidently