

March 8, 1990

LB 1141
LR 239

Wayne, Chadron, Peru, UN-O, UN-L and the Med Center, all under one system for the purposes of coordination. The coordination body would be able to enforce role and mission types of decisions on those campuses and, for once, finally have some degree of coordination. The fourth recommendation is...and this was what was really new and different. Anything else we have talked about has really been around in ideas floating around the state for the last 30 years. The new thing that they recommended was that we recognize that there is a difference between coordination and governance. Coordination involves the system, how different elements of the system function with one another. Governance involves how a specific institution is run on a day-to-day basis. They have recommended that the governance of these institutions be vested in a campus level institutional board of trustees. Those are the four recommendations. LR 239CA provides the constitutional changes that will be needed to bring that about. If it is passed, it will go on the ballot this fall and the voters will have a chance to support it. If they do support it, they will need to be implementing legislation. That follows with the next bill, LB 1141. Let me tell you what the committee amendments do to the bill. They are not, as most committee amendments are, technical in nature. These flush out the proposal and make some very significant changes in LR 239. First of all, they clarify the effective date of the new board is July 1, 1991, and they indicate that the interim Board of Regents will have the interim powers. The trustees had recommended that there be six elected trustees...six elected regents and five appointed. They had recommended...the consultants had recommended that they be elected by congressional districts. Heard some good testimony at the hearing that that's too large an area and we had ought to have those be in districts created by the Legislature, each person have a single district. That's the second thing the committee amendments do. There is a political party restriction on the members of the first Board of Regents. We are adding that, that there be a political party restriction on the memberships of the first Board of Regents, that no one party of the appointed members can dominate, have more than...more than half of that initial board. We deal with the nonvoting student member on the Board of Trustees. As a matter of fact, we deal with it in two different ways. We indicate that that person will be chosen in a manner created by the student body. We also make it a voting member on these boards of trustees. We add a provision prohibiting dual officeholding between Board of Regents and the board of trustees. We add provisions regarding