

March 12, 1990

LB 1141
LR 239

through LB 1141 again at that time anyway, I would hope then we would try to get everybody elected that will be on these boards. So, at this particular time, Senator McFarland, I won't support this particular amendment. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator McFarland, please, followed by Senator Warner.

SENATOR MCFARLAND: Thank you, Mr. President and fellow senators. The discussion being generated is very interesting, because you can see the philosophical differences. Senator Crosby and I are generally, I think, opposed to this concept, but we part, philosophically, about whether the regents should be elected or appointed; whereas Senator Bernard-Stevens, I think, indicated that he and I were sharing the same philosophy about appointments, however, he realized the significance of this particular proposal and the reason that the voters of Nebraska have generally expressed, at least in surveys, a preference for an elected Board of Regents. So he may not support this amendment, even though, he may or may not support this amendment even though philosophically he sees the justification for an appointed board. I'm always troubled by any poll that requests the public to express their view on whether any position should be elected or appointed. I think that if you conducted any poll or survey asking the voters of Nebraska whether the Weed Control Authority person should be appointed or elected, they would say elected. If you asked them, should the person to the Liquor Control Commission be appointed or elected, they would probably say elected. The general tendency of any voter is to say we want to have elected representatives, no matter what the position is. But yet I'm sure, if you'd ask the voters of Nebraska who is their elected regent right now, that about 50 percent of them or more would not even know who their regent that represents their district is. I don't think...I think general polls show that a majority of the people in the legislative districts don't even know who their state senator is. But yet, if you ask them, should the state senators be elected or appointed, of course, they would say elected. The thing about the Board of Regents that makes me think that an appointed board would be better than an elected board is that the Board of Regents would be coordinating all of higher education. It seems to me that they should have a statewide view of that entire process. If we have members of that board as elected regents from specific districts, regental districts, I think we even narrowed it down, instead of having