

appears on page 1285 of the Journal.)

PRESIDENT: Senator McFarland, please.

SENATOR MCFARLAND: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. This is the amendment that was originally ruled to be nongermane. And this is the really crucial amendment as far as...if there is one amendment that I think should be added to the bill it is this one. And the reason I think this one should be added is because if we do not add it we effectively, severely limit the power of any Board of Regents that is created. This amendment would require that once the Board of Regents makes its funding request to the Legislature that the Legislature then appropriate a composite sum of money to go back to the Board of Regents for their discretion to distribute it among the various institutions according to the wishes of the Board of Regents, not according to the dictates of the Legislature. The amendment and the bill, LR 239CA, in its present form would allow the Board of Regents to make its request to the Legislature. But then the Legislature would make the direct appropriations to each of the seven institutions. As I said before, that, in effect, would perpetuate a system whereby the Board of Regents would only be really an advisory board, because their function, under the appropriations process, would be to gather the requests and consider the requests from all the institutions, make selections, and determine priorities. Then make that...then pass that request on to the Legislature. But, if the Legislature then appropriates directly to each of the seven institutions, that recommendation by the Board of Regents becomes advisory only, they become an advisory board, because they don't have the power and the authority to dictate how appropriations from the Legislature should be apportioned among the various campuses. This amendment would, in fact, specify clearly that once the Board of Regents makes its request for funding and appropriations to the Legislature, the Legislature considers all those, makes a lump sum or composite funding recommendation or determination, and then that money would go back to the Board of Regents for distribution. Philosophically, it's a very important concept. I will read a little bit, and again this is something that was proposed by Dr. Wilson in his editorial that I've distributed to you, it's something that I...even before I'd read this editorial I had heard concern expressed about the limited authority of the Board of Regents to distribute funds to the institutions, even before I read this. It says, and I'll just read because I think the language clearly