

the state colleges are expressing their reservations. I am getting comments from people in Omaha, who are expressing their reservations about it. It's not just a local issue with me, it is a statewide issue. And I think there were...Senator Lamb, for example, who appeared voluntarily, as I understand it, before the Education Committee, expressed his reservations. The last time I looked, his district was not located in Lincoln. He has genuine concerns about the bill as well. I had one comment, for example, I'll just relate the comment I had from someone yesterday with whom I talked. They said, you know, we are asked to make comments about what we feel on the bill, and it's like we're up to bat, we're asked to come up to bat, this person said, but every time we come up to bat all we get are fastballs thrown at our chin.

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR McFARLAND: It's kind of hard to hit when all you're doing is ducking. That is the perception people are having about this bill and their reluctance to express reservations or criticize it publicly. I would like to just quote a little last paragraph of this article that I passed around, it's from the Omaha World-Herald, that's not a Lincoln newspaper the last time I looked, and they say, concerning the campus boards and being a central issue, they say, all together the changes seem designed to create a bond of loyalty between the seven boards and their campuses and between the boards and the presidents. Nebraskans are entitled to ask, how would that put an end to parochialism, and how would it restore the statewide vision for higher education that some college and university leaders feel that it has been lacking in the Cornhusker state. I'd like to ask that question myself,...

PRESIDENT: Time.

SENATOR McFARLAND: ...how is this system going to take care of the problems of parochialism within the State of Nebraska on this issue?

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Lamb, you are next, but may I introduce some guests, please, of Senator Smith in the south balcony. We have 35 fourth grade students from Watson Elementary School in Hastings, Nebraska with their teacher. Would you folks please stand and be recognized by your Legislature? Thank you for visiting us today. Senator Lamb,