

please.

SENATOR LAMB: Yes, Mr. President and members. Senator Withem, I'll stand up and say it, I think we have an excellent postsecondary system in the State of Nebraska. I think we have a very good system. It has served us well, it is serving us well. And this restructuring is going to lead to years and years of indecision, nobody knows where they stand, and you're not going to come out with a better system than before. You're not going to come out with a better system than before. There are...certainly there are problems, there are always problems. There are going to be problems. We're not going to get rid of all the problems in one session, or in a series of sessions. But we have a good postsecondary educational system in this state, and I think everybody in here would agree to that statement. We do have a good system in this state at the present time. Now, what's going to happen if this new system comes into effect? Well, we've already seen one thing that happened, we don't have a president of the University of Nebraska. We don't know when we're going to have a president of the University of Nebraska, because nobody wants to take the job, because they don't know what's going to happen down the road. What is going to happen? We're going to be in a long period of disarray and postsecondary education in this state is going to suffer as a consequence. You know I think it's kind of interesting that Senator Withem and I seem to have reversed rolls on this issue. You know he's the supporter of consolidation and I'm the supporter of not requiring mandatory consolidation in schools, and here he's supporting a decentralization system of postsecondary education. But I continue to believe that in postsecondary education that is where we need cooperation, that's where we need interdisciplinary cooperation so that we can truly have a system that treats students well. We haven't heard much about the students in this whole thing. We haven't heard much about students, except Senator Moore has one on the voting part, we've heard that. But how is this going to serve students? You know, and you have these seven...seven separate entities out there competing against each other, I guess that's a gentle word I could use for that. But it's going to be a little bit rougher, I think, as we go into the system. Those seven systems out there, it's going to be impossible for this overall board to coordinate them, particularly since Senator McFarland's amendment did not pass, which funnels the money through the overall board. You know I think that's essentially, because