

where the money is that's where the power lies. And once the Legislature appropriates the money to each of these seven campuses, then you're going to be locked in, you're going to be locked in. What if the super board says a certain college should not have a certain program? But then they'll say, but look, the Legislature said we will have that, they appropriated the money for it. So then where does that leave the regents at that point? They're going to powerless, absolutely powerless. You're going to have a situation which is no better than the situation that the Coordinating Commission for postsecondary education finds itself in today. That's absolutely the way it's going to work. You're going to have seven separate entities instead of having two, as we have now. I think it's a step backward. I hope people don't vote for this.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Lowell Johnson, please.

SENATOR L. JOHNSON: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I rise in strong and thoughtful support of LR 239 and the recommendations of the Postsecondary Education Study Committee. I commend this committee for its vision and the determination exhibited in their proposal. With this proposal, we have for the first time in several years a serious blueprint for providing for the coordination role and mission and governance of higher education in Nebraska. Institutions of higher education today are serving a much more diverse group of students with which more specific educational needs. More and more students today have families and concurrent careers. They can't always arrange their lives to fit traditional institutional delivery of educational services. Recent developments, such as the interest in telecommunications and the college parks envisioned for Grand Island, Norfolk, and Scottsbluff, highlight the urgent need for coordination. I agree with the study committee that these new grass-roots ventures could be the beginnings of yet another physical campus complete with building, staff, and faculty, and that these centers are being developed wholly outside of any orderly state planning process. In essence, while we argue about flagship campuses, toothless or tongueless regents, doctoral programs, educational priorities and quality, the people of the State of Nebraska threaten to take their educational needs into their own hands. With or without coordination and cooperation at a statewide level, the mountain will, indeed, come to Mohammed. The time has clearly arrived for the rational framework, such as envisioned in LB 239, to meet the unique and dispersed