

March 16, 1990

LB 1141

LR 239

postsecondary education where the total needs of the state, the total requirements of the state are looked at at one time by one body and in this total context. It simply is not a way that the Legislature has, as a practical matter, to look at those issues, as I said, because we deal with them one bill at a time. I can think of there are those who, obviously, are opposed to this concept. There are those who want no change and if you're in that group then if you are satisfied with the current state of coordination in the higher...of higher education in Nebraska, you need to make no change. If you're satisfied that Nebraska students can get the programs and the courses they want and need, you need no change. If you are satisfied that the programs are being offered where they are needed now, you need no change. If you're satisfied with the planning for all of higher education as it is now, you need no change. If you believe that we're getting the most bang for the bucks now, there is no need for a change. If there's anything I have heard on this floor in the last decade time and time again was the need for more effective coordination and those words have had a variety of meanings of concerns, the facts always came down it simply did not exist. There are those who say, and what has to be understood, that under the current Constitution there is no way for it to exist. We cannot delegate that coordination function to anyone...

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR WARNER: ...under the Constitution. And I look on this proposal as an attempt to do that. The other option that people talk about is the super board. The concept has been on the ballot in the past, in 1972, soundly defeated. It's been proposed time and time again by other studies, never to get out of the Legislature. And this plan, as Senator Withem has pointed out, separates coordination and governance in a way that it ought to be separated. The autonomy of an individual institution and the governance of that institution can be carefully and effectively provided for and yet you still retain then a strong coordinating body that takes in the whole considerations of the higher ed in the state as a whole. And I would urge that LB 1141 be advanced and provide an opportunity for the people along with LR 239 for the people of the state to address an issue that has been with us for a long time...

SPEAKER BARRETT: Time.