

better educate, make our higher education system prepare more nurses that we need in rural Nebraska, a favorite topic of Senator Nelson, but you ought to take into consideration that there are independent colleges in this state that are providing nursing education. We can't tell them, yes, you have to provide more, or, no, you can't provide as much as you are,...

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR WITHEM: ...but in creating our visionary plans on how we want higher education to respond to the economic and social needs of our state, you have to take into account the fact that there are independent colleges out there. In terms of the power of this board, the board has power to do some of the administrative things as the current Board of Postsecondary Coordinating Commission has in terms of administration of scholarship programs and those type of things. It doesn't have even the limited power that the coordinating commission now has in area of coordination. The coordination authority will be with the Board of Regents and they will, in fact, be a coordinating body with the power to enforce their coordination decisions. So I hope that is somewhat helpful to Senator Schimek and I hope it is somewhat helpful to me in making up my mind on what I am going to do on the Coordsen amendment. So, thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Coordsen, please, Senator Schimek, next.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It appears to me that I am not the only one on the floor that is a little bit fuzzy as to what the real responsibilities of the newly created under 1141 Nebraska Higher Education Commission might be. If, in fact, that commission's powers parallel that of the current Postsecondary Coordinating Commission, then I suppose there is no problem with the language that is currently in the bill. If they, this particular commission does, in fact, have certain enforceable powers, then it would appear that the language of all of the board members should follow what is already provided in the bill for the owner, shareholder, or board member of a proprietary school which must be appointed by the Governor. It relates back, I suppose, basically to Senator Schimek's concerns with regard to the independent colleges, which is a different issue than what the public postsecondary institutions would be. If there is, in fact, a constitutional concern, then we should