

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Actually, the bill calls for nine districts and I'm assuming that three would fall within each congressional district, but the bill does not mandate that.

SENATOR McFARLAND: There would be no appointed regents under...

SENATOR SCHIMEK: That is correct.

SENATOR McFARLAND: Okay, thank you. One of the problems we've always had with the Board of Regents and one of the criticisms has been the fact that they are too parochial and provincial in their interests. One of the concerns I have had is when I read about regent races in which the candidates, as a campaign issue, primary campaign issue sometimes, say that they are running for the purpose of representing their district, that if they happen to live in Chadron's district, they are going to run because they want to see Chadron State College treated better than they have been treated in the past or if they run from the northeast Nebraska, they may say, I'm running from this district, I think Wayne State has been treated unfairly so I'm going to try to be a representative to make sure that Wayne State gets its fair share of state funding and its fair share of representation. And we have here in Lincoln the same type of thing that occurs, I think, as an issue often comes up that the candidates from Lincoln who represent the Lincoln and the surrounding area, that congressional districts talk about UNL and the same thing happens at Omaha with UNO and all over. That has been one of the concerns about the regents and how they function, that they are too parochial, too provincial in the way they represent people. I have passed out a handout that is from the World-Herald which, if you read it fairly thoroughly, it talks about the scholars who have studied this issue say they generally favor appointing regents over electing them. They do make the comment that even whether you elect or whether you appoint, the main thing is to have good candidates. The concern I have, if you elect regents on a regential district basis and if you have nine of them, you're going to have nine separate districts in the State of Nebraska and in those districts I suspect one of the districts is going to contain Chadron State College and one of the districts is going to contain Peru State College and one of the districts is going to contain Kearney State College and one of the districts will contain UNO and for UNL and for the...it will be a continuation of the provincial and parochial nature of representation. That, to me, does not seem to be the appropriate way to coordinate higher education by