

process for such an important prestigious job, but, ladies and gentlemen, without taking any position relative to the various individual who might be governor, I think that sometimes we propose far too much authority in that august position and that the public might just, in fact, do a better job relative to how those positions are filled. But, certainly, I would have to, at this time, Senator McFarland, oppose your suggestion and hope that the faculty have a better method of getting their information to the board. Certainly would seem to me that the Board of Regents ought to be that, they ought to be involved with administration, governance of the system and that we ought to, first of all, represent the public and the taxpayer and not a certain particular group which has a vested interest in how the situation runs.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Bernard-Stevens, followed by Senator Withem and Senator McFarland.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body, I rise in opposition to Senator McFarland's amendment and I guess I base my opposition on going back through the 247 commission's report that came out and through all of their going throughout the state, through all their discussions with the university officials, faculty members, students and so on, nowhere did I get anywhere within the report any feeling whatsoever that faculty desired a voting position on the Board of Regents. I go back to my memory when the students were given a seat on the Board of Regents nonvoting status and I don't remember the faculty, at that point, saying, you know, we need now to have a faculty member on the Board of Regents that sits but doesn't have...has a nonvoting status. I don't remember ever hearing that. I don't remember, for example, on school boards throughout the state, I remember seeing a lot of student representatives, but I don't remember ever faculty saying that we demand to be on the school boards that will decide our salaries and that we decide whether or not we're going hire or fire particular faculty members. I think there is a real problem when you get into that type of scenario. And, quite honestly, there has never been a demand from the faculty, to my knowledge, now or any other time in our past to be on the Board of Regents. And, consequently, I look at that and I look at all of a sudden now it arises and I have a feeling that this is one that somebody has basically drafted together and say, well, why don't we put this one on here to have the body think about when, in fact, there is no demand for it. And so, at this particular