

responsibilities and conduct themselves as productive citizens. There is no way that one student on the board is going to corrupt the system or harm it in any way. But by giving them direct access to the governmental body that will establish policies according to which they may live, I think, would create more interest not only in the student government but in the operation of the institution itself. I'm not one of those who thinks that because a person gets old that wisdom automatically comes with age. By the same token, there are some people who are very young and yet we've all heard the expression "they're wise beyond their years". So I'm in favor of granting to the students this responsibility and it is a responsibility. We should not always have them in the position of hearing us lecture them and talk down to them; on the one hand, say that the purpose of the education system is to teach them to think and be responsible adults. Then, for reasons of trying to put the state in a good light when we're trying to draw businesses here, we might boast about how capable the students are because of the quality of education, and we want companies to accept that and consider moving to Nebraska and staffing their facilities with the young people produced by the educational systems in this state. But if you would judge what the Legislature really thinks about these young people by the way we treat them, we would be telling these businesses, hey, this is so much public relations, this is to get you here but, between you and me, they are not qualified to do anything. They cannot be trusted. When it comes to assuming responsibility, we hesitate. We want them to do it, but we don't believe that they're able. I would applaud any young person who is prepared to go into an assemblage of adults and advocate for the positions and the interests of young people, knowing that in many instances they may stand alone. This is a crucible from which can emerge leaders for tomorrow and the best way to learn a trade, if that's what it is, is to practice it. We learn by doing. Lawyers practice all the time because they never master their subject. Doctors practice all the time for the same reason. These abilities that people develop in politics require constant practice, constant honing, and if you give a person a genuine relationship between what he or she is learning in school and an application of that which is learned in the real world, there is automatically a greater interest in that which is to be learned. If the student representative has a vote on those issues which pertain to the students, there would be an opportunity to rally at the campus, discuss the issues, determine through very vigorous debate, and I would hope lively