

PRESIDENT: Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Mr. President, and members of the body. Simply a brief explanation, I wanted to make sure that Senator Withem and Senator Warner, who have both put so much time and effort on this bill, get an adequate discussion. I was afraid that after about two or three speakers, there would be some excitement to call the question and move on, and I think it is an issue that deserves an adequate amount of discussion. And I will not follow through with this particular one, just simply as a protection to make sure there is the discussion that is needed on this particular motion. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Warner, please, followed by Senator Chambers, then Senator Scofield.

SENATOR WARNER: Well, Mr. President, and members of the Legislature, I will speak on Senator Bernard-Stevens' amendment to the 10th because I think probably obviously it would take a rule suspension, but a constitutional amendment is unlike a statute, I believe, and other than for rules, I think that even if this bill was bracketed until the ninth or the eighth so it was out of the way today, I suspect with 30 votes you could even take it up on the last day by getting to Final Reading and then placing it on the ballot. I am not positive, but I think that is probably quite possible. I have reached the conclusion that coordination is like the weather. Everybody talks about it and nobody does anything. It is too wet, too dry, too cold, too hot, too windy, too still. There is too many boards, not enough boards, too much authority, not enough authority. We simply are not going to address the issue. Now I understand this year, and I don't know what I am going to do with the bracket either because my interest in this discussion does not extend to any other legislation. Senator Withem mentioned a size, some reference to the cost of or the appropriations for higher ed. This year with the three systems of public education in the continuation budget this coming year will be in excess of \$323 million, out of a General Fund budget of \$1,183,000,000; 27 percent of the General Fund budget for the State of Nebraska next year is going to deal with postsecondary education. I look at the sheet, pending legislation, I look at the fact that I voted for a bill yesterday that we are going to attempt to increase aid for local governments, which I voted for. If that is going to really work, it has to be in very healthy competition with other services. I look at the programs that