

April 4, 1990

LB 1141  
LR 239

And so I think that is a healthy act for us to weigh those issues once again here on the body, to weigh them in our own minds, to debate them back and forth, to raise the "what ifs" but, for heaven's sake, let's get this on the ballot. The debate is needed in here. It is needed across the state. The other point that I think I'd make is...

PRESIDENT: Time.

SENATOR SCOFIELD: I may turn on my light and keep going. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: All right, fine. Senator Beck has some guests in the south balcony. We have 100 fourth grade students from Fontanelle Elementary School in Omaha with their teachers. Would you folks all stand and be recognized by the Legislature? Thank you for visiting us today. Now, Senator Crosby, followed by Senator Rod Johnson, Senator Goodrich.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Mr. President, and members. I just want to say two or three things. First, Senator Withem and Senator Warner make me feel guilty because I have not been more...I have been a little less than enthusiastic all along about the whole concept of the changes in the structure of governance of higher education in Nebraska. But I have been listening carefully to what they say, and one thing I would...I have a handout or a mailing that I received from the Business School at the university, Bruce Johnson, a Professor of Agricultural Economics, and it has some statistics in them, one which I think is very interesting, that in the State of Nebraska per capita for higher education we spend \$311, and the average in the United States is only \$247. So that backs up what I believe it was Senator Warner said about the amount of money we do spend on higher education in Nebraska. The other two things I want to say, I have examined my conscience a lot in the last week or two, and reread 239 and reread LB 1141 because I begin to wonder do I feel the way I do because I feel left out because I wasn't on the commission? What is my real feeling? I do have a lot of alumni and professors from UN-L who live in my district, and I do get a lot of phone calls and conversations with them where they are leery of changing the setup. We're naturally protective of the University of Nebraska at Lincoln. But, having said all that, I will say this. I really would like to see this on the ballot because I would like to see the vote after the vote is in. I would like to see it precinct by