

April 9, 1990

LB 1141  
LR 239

we have that. Senator Wesely is saying we need to take a little more time, maybe study it over the summer; higher ed has never been studied, so let's study it over the summer, and let's bring in a bill next year; and then let's maybe vote on it in 1992, and let's maybe put it into effect in 1993. We have an opportunity at this time to actually act in the area of higher education, to do what people in this state say they want done, and what everybody on this floor knows we need to do. My gosh, we have been through so many fights about telecommunications and who gets that, where nursing programs ought to be located, a multitude of other higher education issues. It is really time to act. The way...the reason that we can deal with resolutions separate from the way in which we deal with statutes are they don't go into the statute books. LR 239 and LR 1141 (sic) after today, even if we have a unanimous vote, it won't become a statute, it goes to the people. Frankly, Senator Wesely, I trust the people's judgment more than I trust the Governor's judgment, particularly after what she did with an important piece of legislation of mine here recently. The people will have an opportunity to determine whether it is good or it is bad. We will not have just three days, we will have all summer and the fall to have various people analyze. And if there are drafting problems in LB 1141, they will be discovered and it can be voted down by the people in that case. Let's not ignore a great opportunity that we have here today. I am going to also just comment, my preference as an individual legislator that has dealt with this issue would be to see 239 pass and be on the ballot. I think Senator McFarland indicated we might have a conflict if both of them pass, but I am sure Attorney General DeCamp will have no problem sorting out the difficulties of the conflict in the bill. It is my understanding that the one that passes with the most votes will probably be the one that dominates. As a realist, I know that with the discussions we have had on LB 1141 and the fact that...

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR WITHEM: ...it appears as though the regents, at least some of the regents, are supportive of the concept, that one is much more likely to go, and to me, it is not half a loaf, it is three-fourths of a loaf or more of what I wanted, and I will just be very happy. I'd be happier if 239 were to pass, but I will be very, very pleased if we leave this session putting a constitutional amendment on the ballot to provide for greater coordination of postsecondary education. So, for that reason, I