

April 9, 1990

LB 1141
LR 239

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Mr. President, and members of the body, I will try to be brief because we are approaching the noon hour. I would just like to get to put on record the fact that I have consistently "invokedly" opposed LR 239 for a number of reasons, many of which Senator Lamb talked about earlier today. The idea of seven fiefdoms was bothersome to me. In fact, it would be eight now with Senator Conway's amendment to it. I was also concerned about the budgeting process and how complicated that was going to be, but I did support the suspension of the rules to add Senator Conway's amendment to LR 239 and I also supported the suspension of the rules amendment for LB 1141. LB 1141, I think, is intriguing. For years now I have heard and read about coordinating problems in Nebraska, and there have been...many times the suggestion has been made that we increase the clout of the postsecondary council or commission, but the Legislature never had the will to do that. I also would point out that if this particular amendment were adopted and if LB 1141 is indeed made a constitutional amendment, that that would be going to a system somewhat like Oklahoma is now going to. If you remember, I pointed out earlier this year that Oklahoma has long had a system where each college, community college and university had its own separate board and they had come to the realization that that wouldn't work. So if we could take anything based on their experience, perhaps we might be doing the right thing if we adopted LB 1141. I do have a couple of concerns, again echoing Senator Lamb and Senator McFarland, about this being the last day and attempting to do this in a hurry; secondly, about the idea of having two constitutional amendments on the ballot at once. I think this would be confusing. I think we ought to vote one up and one down, if we possibly can, or both of them down. I also have that same reservation about having the Postsecondary Board all appointed, but in this system I think it works better than it does in the other system. I guess I would just like to close by saying that sometimes leadership really does mean seizing the moment and perhaps this is the moment. I at least think that we ought to give very serious consideration to what we're doing here today. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT PRESIDING

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. The Chair recognizes Senator Withem.