

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Okay. Thank you. Well, I oppose this. I know there's going to be some good debate on this and I will encourage that. I would have strongly opposed the bracket for that reason. This is something I think we do need to clear the air in Nebraska. There is statewide interest in our engineering colleges, college. I don't want to get ahead of the cart here. And I understand probably the business community in Omaha being impatient. That's a tendency of many in the private sector as compared to government, where I've had to learn patience in this body. I sense it in other governmental institutions, including the university systems too, and I'm certain...I understand there's probably the impatience up there that what they want done is not being done. There's an ability in private business particularly to move almost instantly. If they want to fund something, they can do it. And I'm going to take the view that part of their frustration here is this is not happening near as rapidly as they want. But I'm inclined to take the position of the university and the Board of Regents at this point. I believe it does take time to adequately put in a curriculum that is satisfactory to see where people's lives are going to be affected, to see what the future brings as far as the need for engineering graduates and what fields. It takes time to build a curriculum so that it meets many, many people's interests, desires and wants, and I believe strongly that the university system and the Board of Regents, at this time, with President Smith, are doing a very good job of trying to face the issue, to phase it in properly, if you will, if that's the appropriate term, and to try to get where we're going and so I strongly support what they are doing. We, in the Appropriations Committee, thought we were going a good job of adequately funding what was necessary to do. We probably would have been even willing to do more if we thought that there was a need to hurry along even faster. But recall we've got nearly 2 million dollars put into this for this advancement, plus the planning for renovation of one building and the building of a new building. Most of these things can't happen overnight and that's where I...

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: ..am disappointed in the business community of Omaha wondering, wanting to move this that much faster. I really wonder if the planning is behind it, and have it laid out as exactly what they want. Is a dean only what they want? Will that satisfactorily meet what they're thinking of, or what are