

you.

**SPEAKER WITHEM:** Thank you, Senator Wesely. Senator Schmitt has some more guests from Saint Paul, 30 third graders in the north balcony, with their teacher. Would you please all stand and be recognized by your Legislature. Senator Hall.

**SENATOR HALL:** Thank you, Mr. President and members. In October of '93, the Board of Regents, University of Nebraska, authorized the establishment of a review team and they charged them with undertaking a comprehensive review of the engineering and related programs at the University of Nebraska. Members of that review team were the chancellor at the University of the Maryland State System, the president of Webster Engineering Corp., the president of New Mexico State University and the dean of the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences at the University of Wisconsin and Milwaukee. The recommendation, conclusion and recommendation was this: State of Nebraska and the University of Nebraska system should initiate a deliberate and carefully planned process leading to the establishment of an independent College of Engineering at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. That's what we've begun the process to do. They also said a number of ways that the UNO college should be deliberately designed to be very different from the UNL college, should not create an imitation of what exists on the campus at Lincoln. It said that the first action should be clear and unequivocal commitment by the Nebraska state government and the University of Nebraska system to establish and support an independent College of Engineering at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Says, the development of the vision of the strategic plan should be in the hands of a knowledgeable team, including persons from both inside and outside the university. Says, a financial plan of any UNO college should be accompanied by guarantees that the UNO element of the college will not be expected to pay the price. And it says that the team believes that the university system can both continue the development of a strong traditional engineering school in Lincoln and build a new kind of engineering school in Omaha, one carefully adapted to the special needs of the Omaha area citizens and its business community. Senator Warner rightly says the...and brings up the issue of the Postsecondary Education Commission and I addressed that in the amendment, understanding full well that that is a concern, but I also say that this body has the ability, as the public policy making body for the state, to address these issues. We haven't abdicated all our authority to that group