

to speak briefly on this matter. The Education Committee obviously deals with the University in some length. Senator Newell is a member of that committee for the first time this year, and I think he's probably been exposed to some things there at well. I just want to point out that we all blame the Regents and we blame the University at times for some of the things that happen, and I have been as vocal as probably anybody in here, for the perceived waste of taxpayers dollars, perceived waste of funds in certain areas. I've also come to the conclusion that what we blame them for in many cases is a matter of politics, it's a matter of pressures put on by special interest groups, a matter of pressures put on by constituencies for whatever program it is that the University might be looking at. I guess I think that this body is not really the appropriate body to blame other folks for caving in to political pressures. What we should be doing is trying to help them to meet those political pressures. We've got a bill out of the committee this year that does attempt to try to do that, I think. It attempts to try to set up some criteria for program review so that we, the Legislature, can help give those institutions of higher learning in the state, that use our tax monies that we appropriate, some direction as to how to use those dollars. But along with that direction I think it puts us in a position of trying to back them up politically when they make those decisions. I've stood on this floor and criticized them for not being very wise in their use of funds but yet I've also criticized this same body for starting down the road to expend a lot of funds at the University of Nebraska for a particular program, simply because we were caving in to a special interest group. I just point out to you that it doesn't make any difference whether that body is going to be appointed, elected, or how they get there. It doesn't make any difference whether they are going to be under our direct control or not, we're still going to make those decisions of how we spend those dollars based on political pressures outside this room. I don't think it makes a bit of difference how we set up the structure. I would also point out to you that is a very, very difficult task that the Board of Regents have. That is a large, large University. There are a lot of things to be known about it. I don't believe any one of us in this body