

March 5, 1984

LB 970

CLERK: 28 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the motion to adopt the amendment.

SPEAKER NICHOL: The Lundy-Vickers amendment is adopted. Do you have another amendment, Mr. Clerk?

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Warner would move to indefinitely postpone the bill. That would lay it over unless the introducers agree to take it up at this time.

SPEAKER NICHOL: It looks like most of the introducers want to take it up now so we will do so. Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, let me start by saying that I am not unaware of the difficulty of what I want to discuss this morning. But my concern with 970 deals with, in part, spending between three and four years some years ago along with other members of this body in which we held hearings throughout the state numerous times trying to develop role and mission by statute for institutions of higher learning, or I should say postsecondary institutions and obviously throughout that period of time there were always the arguments that duplication should not be done but the definition of duplication becomes very difficult as to what is unnecessary and what is necessary. Secondly, during that whole period of time access was also a constant concern no matter where we were in the state, whether you were talking specific courses or academic programs or vocational education programs, access was always paramount. Balancing those two things was the recognition, the very fundamental recognition that a state of a million and a half people could not afford a quality system that ended up providing everything available to everyone at the maximum quality at every location. So we had to find some kind of a concept, a policy, which would balance those two very legitimate concerns. The route that was chosen in those studies and what was eventually passed by the Legislature was to avoid duplication between systems and for that matter between institutions within systems by limiting or designating who had the authority to grant the degree of a particular kind. It was our feeling then that by limiting who granted the