

process. I think it makes sense to put the issue on the ballot. As Senator Hefner and Senator Haberman said, you are taking away the right of the people to vote. But it is those very same people that will make the decision, not us. What we are deciding today is whether we put it on the ballot or not. That is the only decision we make. Do we give the people a chance to vote on this or not? I say let's give them a chance to vote on the issue, let's give the Governor a chance to make his case, and then let's let the people decide whether or not they want to make a change. If they decide themselves to take away the right to vote for regents, and I think very well after they hear the facts they may, then that is a decision they ought to have a chance to make. That is what we are asking with this resolution. I ask not to kill it, but to advance it and pass it and give the people a chance to vote on the issue. I would like to defer the rest of my time to Senator Rupp.

PRESIDENT: You have about two minutes, Senator Rupp.

SENATOR RUPP: Two minutes? I think my light is on, so I'll speak later. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Okay. Senator Vard Johnson.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker and members of the body, I think that both Senator Hefner and Senator Haberman have done a superb job of outlining the differences of opinion on this issue. I totally and absolutely agree with Senator Hefner and Senator Haberman that this measure, if passed by the Legislature and if passed by the voters at the next general election or the next primary election, would, from that point forward, deprive the citizen of the right to vote on regents, absolutely would. It would take away from the citizens their right to elect regents. Normally there are times when we like to keep the right of the franchise, so to speak, in the hands of the citizenry. But there do come times when that needs to be changed. I am of the opinion this is one of those times. Senator Hefner makes the remark, using the adage that we do use quite a bit in this body, if it is not broke it shouldn't be fixed. I'm of the opinion, truthfully, that our system of postsecondary education in Nebraska is broke and needs to be fixed. I passed out, about a month ago, a little paper I photocopied from the report of the Governor's Task Force on Postsecondary Education, with a small note which