

think we can ignore, or that we should ignore. I think we should have some public dialogue on this. There hasn't been before. Senator Haberman mentioned that if we killed the bill, or whatever, we will have public dialogue. We all know better than that. If the bill doesn't advance we don't have something to talk about and some reason for constituents to contact us and give us their input, we won't get it. In 1968, when the Little Hoover Commission suggested this very thing, nothing ever reached the floor in the form of legislation. We are one step further than that now, but let's take it still one other step and advance it today. There's been a lot of talk about a concern of loss of power of the voters. That's not true I don't think. You elect the governor. You must trust his judgement, some day possibly her judgement on a multitude of appointments. I don't think a good case has been made why this should be treated that much differently. Speaker Nichol and several others mentioned a problem in western Nebraska that they might tend to lose power. There is a problem in outstate Nebraska right now, I submit, in electing regents. I think if you all give it some thought, you'll see what I am talking about. It is not true probably here in Lincoln. It is a university city and a very important source of revenue to the city and so forth. I think people here are well tuned in on regent candidates. Those of you from greater Nebraska, as it is called, stop and think what do you ask a candidate for regent. What have you heard people ask a candidate for regent, what question? They can ask us our feelings on the death penalty, or triple trailer trucks, or revenue sharing, or a multitude of things and sort out our philosophy. That is very difficult to do with a regent. Senator Barrett mentioned a poll in his district that 70 some percent of the people wanted it left this way. I would have liked to have seen two more questions added to that poll just for curiosity, one being who is their regent. I think we would have seen that percentage fall dramatically on the right answer; more importantly why did they vote for or against that particular regent. I would find, I'm sure if I asked people in my district, that a lot of them would be grasping at straws, trying to come up with some sort of an answer. We have to look to the future on this thing. We have to discuss it some more. We heard Senator Warner tell us many times, and we have no reason not to believe him, that we are looking at tighter budgets, not just this year but down the future. The prioritization in the University system, that spends almost one-fourth of the tax dollars, is