

March 28, 1973

(Start of Belt #4)

my friend, Senator Marvel, and we've been called. As Senator Stahmer has said that he is of the Democratic party and that he is a friend of this type of legislation and he gave him the title of Doctor and I am pleased and happy that he has done so and I am not trying to make light of Senator Marvel's work here because he has worked in this type of bill. But I think on this particular bill, Senator Marvel has the wrong bill because of a simple reason. The Regents are a constitutional office. Why not take one-third of the membership of this Legislature and place a whole section here and let them have the right to vote. Why not take one-third of the seven man city council in our cities and just, automatically, place them on or one or two representatives. Why not, Senator Stahmer, place two or three on the County Board and give one or two of them the right to serve on the School Board. What we are beginning now to do is just completely eliminate the idea of running for elections and we're just saying, all right, we are going to place students on this. And then, Senator Stahmer, we ought to look at the elderly and say those over sixty, those over sixty, they ought to be represented in this Legislature and we ought to give one-third of this body to them. So that they will be properly represented with the bills that come to, either be for their cause or against it. And so, pretty soon, we wouldn't have any elective offices because we would be appointing people for each and every post. And so I say in my closing remarks that our watchdog on constitutional amendments and whom I very seldom agree with on all of these things, George and his good friend, Duke, they are on the right track today and this Legislature could just as well be on its way and get on to the other bills of the Legislature by refusing to raise this bill and say that it was a noble attempt, Senator Marvel, but this could be a can of worms that you'd wished you'd never brought to life today.

PRESIDENT: Senator Kelly.

SENATOR KELLY: Mr. President, members of the body, as a member of the Constitutional Committee, I heard practically every word of the testimony. The exact same words that were heard by my colleague, Senator Anderson, but they rang differently in my ears because I thought the students were well organized. I thought their testimony was excellent and it almost convinced me completely that a Regent at the University of Nebraska is doing a lousy job. They had statistics to show the small amount of work that is being done by the elected Regent and they proved their point that probably if a student were on the Board of Regents that all of the Regents would be doing a better job than they are now. I disagree with that point that they made. This Legislature killed the open meeting law which would have been the answer that the students at the University of Nebraska want and that they do have conversation with the Board of Regents, they do have input into the operation of the University but they do not have any input or any access to the closed meetings that are held by the Board of Regents and, herein, lies the point that the student do not like. When the open meeting law is down the drain, obviously, their only recourse is to have the Legislature be their blocker with the people of Nebraska and change the Constitution in its complete meaning to put a student on the Board of Regents so that they can now have an invitation to the closed meetings. To me it would be much more sensible to reconsider the open meeting law and pass that. It will do a better job than changing the Constitution. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Senator Keyes, and then, Senator Simpson.

SENATOR KEYES: Mr. President, I think that about all has been said that needs to be said. It hurts me to talk against a couple of my good friends from Omaha but Senator Syas, if