

SENATOR CULLAN: I am glad you are sorry. Mr. President, members of the Legislature, Senator Maresh, this was a committee bill and so I would like to address a few questions to you and I think that in light of the fact that there is a kill motion on it that it is appropriate to discuss the various aspects of the bill. In response to Senator Cope's question, I think now is the time for those who support the bill to rise in opposition to this amendment. And as it is a committee bill, Senator Maresh, I would like you to tell us briefly why the committee decided to introduce this bill and why the committee believes that this bill should be passed in the form that it is in.

SENATOR MARESH: Senator Cullan, as many issues, important issues, we felt that it is something that should be given a hearing and to discuss both pros and cons and the committee system is that system that we use to get all the pros and cons out and that is why we decided to sponsor the bill and I think I am against the kill motion and I would like to see the bill held over until Senator Lewis and Senator Koch are here to get in on the discussion because they have interest in this bill. I have a motion there to hold the bill over until the 20th of February.

SENATOR CULLAN: Senator, could you tell me, in the case of the state colleges, in particular, why the four campuses should join together in one bargaining unit which would be mandated under this particular proposal? Why is that an advantage and why is that a policy that the State of Nebraska should adopt?

SENATOR MARESH: It must be agreeable because there wasn't a single vehement objection at the hearing from the state colleges and there was no objection from the voc-tech system either. So the only opposition was from the University of Nebraska and the AFL-CIO as far as opposition to the bill and that is why the committee decided to exclude the University of Nebraska. We thought probably things could be worked out here on the floor of the Legislature and pass it with those two systems in.

SENATOR CULLAN: Okay, Senator, I am not quite sure I understand that but there is one additional question I would have and that is the committee, when the bill was before the committee, the committee decided that the University should be taken out and now the University is back in the bill. Do you believe that the bill should be passed now, or in light of the fact that the University is back in the bill, do you believe the bill should be passed even though