

state to establish some kind of a Postsecondary Coordinating Commission. That legislation was before us in '73 and '74, and it died in the Education Committee at that time. Following that, the Governor at that time, by executive order established what was called a 1202 Commission, which was the same thing as the legislation and it was proposed and as I recall it was something like sixty to seventy thousand dollars of federal funds that was available for that operation. That Commission, in the process of... and they had some general activity as an advisory group at that time, they...that Commission as part of their existence as the 1202 developed legislation that was introduced in '77 I guess...or, yes '77, and...or '75 I guess it was, excuse me, '75 or '76, which set them up as a Coordinating Commission, as an advisory type Coordinating Commission for all the postsecondary education. Essentially, we stripped that bill of all authority at the time it was passed. We changed the makeup of the Commission. We gave them three or four specific assignments, and those assignments only which dealt with some studies and reports, and since that point we have essentially kept it in that...in that status. This particular bill, I think, does expand their specific authority and responsibilities beyond what was included in the original bill when it was enacted, and that's true.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Well, thank you, Senator Warner. As Senator Merz said, I got a lot more information than I asked for. But in any case, I think that I...you did touch upon the important part and that is that this bill does expand the authority of the Postsecondary Coordinating Commission. I think that if we do a little more review, we'll find that the attempts by the Commission to root out duplication and education, and to perhaps find instances of abuse, have not been very successful. I doubt that the Commission has accomplished one single positive action in this regard. And yet at the same time, after you review the figures on the budget I think you'll find that their budget is expanding rapidly, and their responsibilities now are apparently going to be expanded to meet that expanding budget. I know that the federal government has many, many very fine motives in trying to mandate these various programs whereby we can improve education in the State of Nebraska, but I think that Senator Cullan has made a point relative to the fact that the rule of caveat emptor ought to apply to a certain extent in the matter of education as it does in other businesses. I know that sometimes we don't get all the education we pay for within the state...

SENATOR LEWIS: One minute, Senator Schmit.