

place on the November 1986 ballot a proposal that beginning in 1988 the Nebraska Board of Regents would be appointed by the Governor as opposed to being elected as, of course, they are now. These appointments would be ratified by the Legislature. They would be six-year terms essentially as they are now. I want to clarify one thing at the outset so there isn't any confusion. There are several proposals dealing with higher education in our committee, Constitutional Revision and Recreation. With the exception of this one all were held and some of those other ones dealt with the so-called super board, the Supervisory Board, over all higher education in Nebraska. Some had some of these board members appointed and some elected various blends and so forth and just at the outset I'd like to point out to you that none of those are tied into this issue. This is a simple, straightforward one dealing with appointing by the Governor as opposed to electing Regents. Two committee amendments basically, one is a rather technical and clarifying amendment, one is...well, I guess both are substantive amendments. I'll take the technical one first. It would simply delete the requirement that county lines be followed when regent districts are set up by the Legislature. Instead a more flexible provision would require the use of county lines only when practicable and this was necessary because of some Supreme Court, one man, one vote ruling several years ago. There is a contradiction in the existing statutes. In one place it says county lines shall be followed and another place it says county lines shall be followed whenever possible and the problem arises with districting Douglas County and, of course, redistricting is required after each federal census and it's a difficulty with Douglas County in carving out regent districts of equal population and still having to follow county lines. As a matter of fact, it is impossible, so this simply says it shall be followed whenever practicable. The other amendment is rather substantial. Those of you that have an interest in this resolution should probably listen a little bit. As you know there are eight regents now. There are eight regents. This would state that there would either be seven or nine regents. The rationale in this is to avoid the specter of tie vote. It was rather ironic in the recent report of the commission, the Citizens Commission on Higher Education in Nebraska. It was presented to the regents and on accepting or rejecting several of the proposals there were 4-4 tie votes. Right now the Legislature has the authority to set from six to