

initially been appointed, had we not had a system where the Governor can make appointments in the event of a vacancy. Once again let me emphasize that all we are asking you to do is give the voters an opportunity, for the first time in the history of the State of Nebraska, to themselves decide do they want an appointed or an elected board. The only other times they have been given the opportunity to vote on it, and that is twice, once last century and a second time in 1920 as far as our research discloses, they only had one option and that was the elected option. So, on that basis, I would ask that you vote to advance LR 32. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Senator Rupp.

SENATOR RUPP: (Response inaudible.)

PRESIDENT: Senator Rupp is passing for the time being. Senator Labedz, then Senator Higgins.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Thank you, Mr. President. I was a member of the higher education committee. This summer we held meetings throughout the state and two or three here in Lincoln. It was very interesting because we had 66 members on this committee. They were all very qualified leaders of the state. The money for the meetings and the expenses, the study was funded by the Peter Kiewit Foundation, the Cooper Foundation, the Woods Charitable Fund of Lincoln, the Edgar Reynolds Foundation of Grand Island, and the Phelps County Community Foundation. Many things were discussed at length about the Governor, and the most important I believe was the Governor appointing the board of regents. When we held the committee hearing, the Constitutional Revision and Recreation Committee, one of the regents that testified against the resolution kept saying over and over again that we are taking away the right of the people to vote. I agreed with the regent and said that I do not, myself, care for the Governor or any governor to appoint the regents. But we were not taking away the right to vote. I wanted the right to go to the polls and vote as to whether or not the Governor should. But let's go back to some of the meetings that we held, the higher education committee. Some of the things that were discussed by Senator Haberman, as far as the Governor making appointments, that would be very political, I argue against that very, very strongly because the governors tend to take their major appointments very