

PRESIDENT: Senator Barrett, do you wish to speak on advancing the resolution?

SENATOR BARRETT: Thank you. Mr. President and members, I hesitate to belabor the point, except that I do want to say that I believe that the people of Nebraska want to continue electing their regents, as has been the case in the past. Senator Hefner, I believe, called attention to the number of constituents that he had visited with in his district. I'd like to call your attention to the fact that I just completed a rather extensive poll in my district in which this question was asked. Seventy-nine percent of the respondents said no, absolutely not. Only 7 percent said yes, and of course the remaining 14 percent were undecided. I think that says something. There is no evidence, at least that I've been able to find, to suggest that the elective process, as we know it now, does not provide regents who are qualified, capable, informed and concerned about the direction and destiny of the University system. I think the real key to me is the fact that under our present system, of electing regents, we are getting people who actually want to run. They want to serve the University, the people of Nebraska. They are anxious to devote the considerable time and energy and expense incumbent upon running for that particular position. That says something. That says a great deal to me. We are talking about a University which serves all Nebraskans. The electors should continue to have a say about the direction that it will take through the electoral process. I don't believe that an argument can be made that we aren't attracting qualified people. I believe we are. Those people that do run for the position really want the job. They care enough to run. Frankly, I'd rather have that kind of a person in a position of regent, who cares enough to seek that position, than a person who is seeking a political plum, as it were. And a position on the board of regents should certainly be considered a political plum. I hope the body will not advance the resolution. Thanks, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Speaker Nichol, I have you next on the list for recognition.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, several good points have been made here today. Let's just start with the football team, Senator Hoagland. Isn't it