

Originally the committee attempted to eliminate the commission totally. I would think that would have been probably a pretty good idea. This commission has been around now not all that long, but in my estimation the years that they have been here have produced very little results. They've put out lots of paper, put out lots of statistics and usually I don't find much value in either. It seems to me that we've got a paper tiger and I've said that before and that's wonderful, but we need more than that to get the job done. I think Senator Vickers is on track and I did support his efforts last year to give them a little more teeth, but frankly I don't know how much good that is going to do either. I think essentially if we're going ever get coordination, if we're ever going to get some tough stands on higher education, in part this body is going to be the place where it starts and finishes. We're going to have to be the ones to stand tall. I think Senator Vickers has done that on the vet college and we followed along and worked with him on that. So we can do the job, but it seems to me this is one area, this Coordinating Commission is one area that we might look to, to eliminating an agency and not really lose much. We do save \$104,000 through this cut. Senator Vickers wants to put \$58,000 back in. I suggest that we ought to go with the greater savings and continue with the recommendations from the committee. I think in this instance they're absolutely right. Much as I agree with Senator Vickers' goals and I admire his leadership, I think in this case I disagree with him and ask you to not support the Vickers amendment, but to support the committee recommendation.

SENATOR MOREHEAD: Senator Scofield.

SENATOR SCOFIELD: Thank you, Madam Chair, members of the body, I, too, rise to commend Senator Vickers for his interest in higher education and we share the same goals, but I urge you to reject his amendment and support the committee's original recommendations. There are some talented people at the Coordinating Commission. They have some things to offer, but for whatever reason I would agree with Senator Wesely, the group has not been effective and I think perhaps it's because it's any time you take an outside group which, granted, has people sitting on it from the various higher education institutions, but it just has not seemed to get at what are basically managerial administrative decisions within that institution. I think