

the discussions in the committee was always it ought to be on 204. I'm sure some of them probably still feel that way. I do. But apparently I thought that was not to be the format.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Vickers, then Senator DeCamp, then Senator Miller. Senator Vickers first.

SENATOR VICKERS: Well, if the body wants to reconsider their actions on making future commitments, I guess that is up to them. I wasn't commenting, Senator Warner, about the committee as a whole. I was simply making the comment that if you go back to the original Miller amendment and whether it is on 723, or whether it is 204A because this is right out of 204A, you are making future commitments, don't kid yourself. I'm only commenting because I have heard various people, both on the committee...the Appropriations Committee and off, make comments about the fact that we blissfully go along in this body making future commitments, and then when those commitments come due, we have difficulty in finding the ways to fund them. Many times our Appropriations Committee has got their hands tied because of those previous commitments that we have made. I am only commenting, and I realize people are doing it based on how they feel about this particular issue. You know the matter of fact is it is not a question of whether you are "liberal" or "conservative", it is whether or not you want the program for yourself, and we all know it. Probably for selfish reasons, maybe I should vote for this too because maybe it would make it easier for my grandsons, at some point in time in the future, to get into vet school. I don't know. Maybe it would make it a little better to have more veterinarians in the state. I don't know. But I do know this much, and I know this much as sure as I'm standing here talking to you, our economic problems are not going to be gone next year, or the year after that, or the year after that. The days of the University of Nebraska getting 12 and 15 percent increases is gone and we all know it. We have got more higher education in this state than we can afford right now and we all know that also. But we just can't figure out where to make the hard decisions. We've got a study before the Education Committee this year asking about the structure and the services provided in higher education and that is one of the reasons. But we blissfully go about our business because we think it is good for us, because we think our constituents want it, because we think there is no tomorrow