

SENATOR HOAGLAND: Let me hold my comments for closing, if there is anyone else, Senator Barrett, that would like to speak at this time.

SENATOR BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Nichol, please. Excuse me, Senator Hefner is up next, then Senator Nichol. Senator Hefner, would you care to speak to LR 32CA, please?

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President and members of the body, I certainly do want to speak on this. I oppose changing this or at least putting it up for the people to change it. I feel that appointment of the regents does not represent an improvement and such action would deny the citizens of the state a basic right of representative government, the right to vote. I have confidence in the voters of the people. I think most of them are well informed when it comes to the election of the regents. They use good judgment and wisdom in their voting. Let's consider and analyze our educational system in Nebraska. We elect our local school board members. We elect our local school board. We elect a representative governing board of lay people for our elementary schools. So why shouldn't you, I asked you this morning, why shouldn't we elect our Board of Regents to the University? I feel that the university belongs to the people of Nebraska and the citizens should have control of the university through its elected Board of Regents. If it's put into the hands of the executive branch, we are shifting control of our university. I feel that the people of Nebraska will lose their direct influence and voice by losing their representative vote, if we appoint the regents. And so, therefore, I would oppose it. Let's talk a little bit about our neighbor to the north, South Dakota. The 19th Legislative District that I represent borders the State of South Dakota so I'm in constant contact with some of their elected officials. South Dakota appoints their regents at the present time and they want to change it back. They feel that they've given too much control to their Governor. Also, Iowa appoints their regents and I have received some letters from people there saying that they felt that Iowa made a mistake. Texas appoints their regents and some of them down there wish now that...and want to go back the other way to electing their regents. So I think we need to be very careful with this this morning and so I am going to vote against advancing this constitutional amendment.

SENATOR BARRETT: Thank you, Senator Hefner. Senator