

SENATOR NELSON: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I, too, oppose this resolution. I think that the Board of Regents, as John just said, I guess he took my words, they must be accountable to the people and responsible to the people. And I think that...I've had no complaints at all in my area. I know that some people are at the point that maybe government should move in that direction. We simply have not heard any complaints. No one has come to us why this should be done or should not be done. Another argument that we hear, we should not expect our regents to spend the time and the money to go through the campaign. I certainly appreciate that, but it's like Dr. Koefoot said, my goodness, if you want the job and you earn it, you get out and you earn it and you work and you be responsible. I truly agree too that some of the voters do not know some of the regents, but I'm sure the ones of us that do try to...we do know our own regents and we do respect their opinion. I, again, as I say, I have to agree with Senator Nichol, there are certainly no complaints in my area and I think that the regents must be responsible to the people and I can see entirely too much possibility. I'm not saying that our present Governor or our past governors would do that, but I see too much politics and appointed members to their own liking or own thinking, and I think that the taxpayers support our schools and our universities and they should still be the final vote on the Board of Regents.

SENATOR BARRETT: Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Mr. President, members, I would rise in support of LR 32. LR 32 is an issue that has been before the body before as has been mentioned by Senator Hoagland and others. The concept of an appointed Board of Regents has been of controversy now for at least 15 years or more and I think time and again we've seen recommendations to do that fall by the wayside. This is as far as the idea has ever advanced to come to Select File and at least at this point we're still considering the idea. I would hope that you would give it one more chance and move it over to Final Reading and again consider the merits of the proposal. I don't think anybody is really wanting to be critical of the elected Board of Regents. I think we all feel that they're good people and they put in a lot of time and personally I know almost all of them and feel very positive about their contribution. The point I think a lot of people