

March 12, 1986

LB 1172

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Vickers, the committee amendments.

SENATOR VICKERS: Am I on the committee amendments or my amendment to the committee amendments?

SPEAKER NICHOL: Which one did you wish to take first?

SENATOR VICKERS: Well, I think I would like to take the committee amendments and then my amendment to the committee amendments following that if that is okay.

SPEAKER NICHOL: All right, we will be on the committee amendments then.

SENATOR VICKERS: Okay. The committee...well, first of all, in order to explain the committee amendments I need to explain the bill a little bit. LB 1172 is the bill that I referred to in debate out here a few other times because of some of the concern raised by some members of the Legislature about the lack of coordination, the lack of cooperation and the lack of understanding, quite frankly, of what is going on or not going on in all of higher education in the State of Nebraska. So 1172 is a bill that, first of all, wipes out the current Coordinating Commission as we now have it. The current Coordinating Commission is replaced by an Agency of Higher Education and Planning and Review. Now, the director of that agency would be a code level director appointed by the Governor and under that agency's direction would be a couple of different branches. The first one would be a planning side of the agency and the second one the review side. The review side would be conducted by a Citizens Advisory Committee basically structured after the current Coordinating Commission. As a matter of fact, there is some language in the bill that indicates that the current Coordinating Commission could be named as that Citizens Advisory Committee. The other part of the agency is the planning part of the agency and there is established a Planning Council made up of representatives of all of higher education, both public and private, and the purpose of that, of course, is to have a mechanism whereby we can plan higher education from the broad statewide perspective. Finally, there is also given to this director the authority to plan from a regional perspective, to be able to look across state lines to enter into reciprocal agreements or to help institutions enter into reciprocal agreements and also to enter into compacts with other states. Now, the committee