

April 14, 1994

SPEAKER WITHEM: You've heard the report. Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Just briefly, Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I rise to support the nominations, I think it's plural. I want to say particularly a kind word towards Keith Blackledge. The only thing I will say is in his retirement, which we all kind of laughed in North Platte because he hasn't retired at all, he's working harder than he ever has. But his dedication to public radio, his dedication to the media, his dedication to public television, and in particular his dedication to getting funding and the telephone companies to work together for distance learning, not only in the Sandhills of the Broken Bow pod, but also in the Alliance, Sutherland and Wallace pod for long distance learning, has been really key to getting education technology out into the central and western part of the state. To have him involved in the telecommunications technology commission is going to be a tremendous asset for education, and I think to the Legislature as he lends his expertise to that commission. And I appreciate the Governor's nomination and appreciate the Education Committee passing that nomination forward, Senator Bohlke, thank you very much.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Kristensen.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature. Senator Bernard-Stevens, I find it interesting that you rise to support Mr. Blackledge. I believe today you passed out some journalistic materials that showed some errors, and you indicated that that may be the source of the error. And I was just wondering, in spite of that you still have the confidence to recommend him to this position, is that because it's the spoken word and not the written word?

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: No, that's because they'll own up to an honest mistake, and that's good.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Further discussion? Senator Bohlke, closing? No closing. Question is the adoption of the committee report. All in favor vote aye, opposed vote nay. Record.

CLERK: 27 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the adoption of the Education Committee's confirmation report.