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"This is not a debate of 669, or the school board's stand on it. That is simply not the issue."

Rep. James Hager, D-Pawhuska, voiced his opposition to the amendment.

Despite debate, the amendment passed with a vote of 60-35.

In an effort to continue efforts to perfect the measure, Smith made the motion to strike the title of the bill. However, his motion failed with a vote of 53-43.

The bill passed with a vote of 98-0.

FROM: HEATHER MYERS

DATE: 03/05/96

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION BILL ALLOWING MERGER RECEIVES APPROVAL FROM HOUSE

■(GIT) A floor substitute for Senate Bill 1162 was addressed in both houses Wednesday. The measure provides for the merger of University Center at Tulsa and Rogers State College. House members voted 87 to 13 in favor of the bill. The same consensus was conveyed by the Senate later in the day when members voted 44 to 0.

The floor substitute for the bill would make employees and others with grievances go through administrative channels first before entering the judicial system, explained Rep. Dwayne Steidley, D-Claremore, author of the bill.

Rep. Wayne Cozort, R-Tulsa, tried to amend the bill with a provision that would have allowed the governor to appoint the nine member board. Steidley motioned to table the amendment. Members voted 49 to 41 in favor of tabling the amendment.

Rep. Michael Thornbrugh, R-Tulsa, offered two amendments suggesting that the governor make appointments when necessary, but only with the advice of the Senate. The amendments passed.

Cozort debated against the bill saying it eliminates three appointments by Governor Keating and transfers the power to the Senate Pro Tempore and President of University Center at Tulsa, Rodger Randle.

Steidley debated in favor of the bill. "This assures some continuity between existing boards and then, only through attrition, the governor will appoint new individuals." He added, "This bill represents innovation, I urge you to support it."

FROM: MARTA MCCLOSKEY

DATE: 03/06/96

LAWMAKERS SAVE RELIGIOUS AMENDMENT FOR CHARTER SCHOOLS ACT

■(GIT) Rep. Don Ross, D-Tulsa, put faith to the test Thursday when he successfully amended an amendment by Rep. Bill Graves, R-Oklahoma City. Ross claimed the amendment was discriminatory against other religions. The Graves amendment would allow charter schools the option to teach the Bible as a literary and history course. Ross's amended amendment passed with a narrow vote of 53 to 46.

Ross's amendment states that charter schools could opt to teach literature and history courses on all religions.

Graves debated in opposition to Ross's amendment. "Our country was founded on the religion of Christianity," he said.

Rep. Mike O'Neal, R-Enid, also debated in opposition to the amendment.

Ross debated in favor of his amendment. "I am not against the Bible." Ross explained that he wanted to give every religion a chance.

Floor substitute for HB2268, the Oklahoma Charter Schools Act, authored by Rep. James Bryant, R-Tulsa, passed 62 to 37. Several sections of the bill were codified to ensure Federal funds for school lunches, limit the number of charter schools operating in the state to 15 per year,

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