

justifiable position to take, one with which I would not agree. But, at this point, all the committee amendments do...my amendments do is make a specific question about Kearney State. Sometime either now or on Select File, I'm not sure, Senator Warner is going to have an amendment that strengthens that language within the Withem amendment and presupposes that there may be a transfer of Kearney State but it will still just be a study. That amendment will not effectuate a transfer. A little later on there will be an amendment which I think will be a Warner, Kristenser, Langford amendment which will, in effect, put 160 into this bill and set up the situation for a test case with the Supreme Court to see what we need to...it will actually bring about the transfer. If you're opposed to Kearney State transfer, I would suggest that ought to be where you fire your ammunition. At this point, what my amendment does is it asks a specific question about Kearney State College that this study commission is supposed to recommend.

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR WITHEM: So that's what we do with the Kearney State issue in this. We are not effectuating any transfer of Kearney State. Finally, if I have any time at all left, Senator Baack was going to ask me a question and may not get his light on, about the role of community colleges. Is this just a study of public four-year institutions? It most certainly is not. It is a study of our higher ed system and a portion of our higher ed system, a very important portion of our higher ed system is the community college system, how they interrelate with the four-year institutions, how we fund them, how we organize them, how we govern them, how we make decisions about what courses they offer. That is a very important piece of this puzzle and it definitely is a part of it. I had suggested to a senator in here that they maybe ought to offer a specific community college reference amendment to this bill and I got to rereading the bill and, to me, it doesn't need to be there because it's definitely a part of the system and the community colleges are there. With that, I guess that's about all I have to say.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Langford is next, but may I introduce some guests first, Senator Langford, guests of Senator Byars, Dennis Byars of District 30. In the north balcony we have 18 high school students from Adams High School in Adams, Nebraska and their sponsors. Would you folks please stand and be recognized. Thank you for visiting us today. Senator