

Scotfield's amendment and voted for it because I do not think this study should tell the consultant, whomever that might be, that the reason for this study is to tell us to come back and tell us what to do about Kearney State. I think there are a host of questions in higher education for the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, the University of Nebraska at Omaha, the four state colleges, Peru State, Wayne State, and Chadron definitely need to have study. And I don't think you can just take Kearney out of it. And the thing that concerns me is what Senator Scotfield has voiced so many times this morning that it will focus on Kearney State. We have to be concerned about where the research strength in our university system will be, which normally is here at Lincoln and at the medical school. I don't think you can take this one thing and make it the focus. And the other thing I don't like is that I don't think that if we, for instance, if we vote for the Withem amendment, which I voted against because I don't think Kearney State should be in there, if the consultant comes back, whatever that consultant tells us, we still have the privilege of voting for or against whatever the consultant says. I know that Kearney State is here to stay. Kearney State is not going to go away. It is a very fine college, we need it. But what we need to know is how it fits in with the rest of the college and university system, not how the university system and the colleges fit in with Kearney. And I think when you emphasize Kearney in this amendment then that is how it goes, is that we focus on that. I just don't feel that when you dilute your money, which Senator Withem also talked about, is that we give them the money and they spend it. When you take that and add Kearney to the university system then you do have another financial problem. I don't say that because I'm against...necessarily because I'm against Kearney State coming into the university system, I just think it's a financial fact of life. So Senator Warner said we don't need a laundry list. In a way I think maybe we do need a laundry list. If we are going to name Kearney State then I think we have to name all these other things, so I'm going to vote for Senator Withem's amendment, and I hope a lot of the rest of you will, too, so we can get on with the study and talk about the study itself. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Nelson, please, followed by Senator Langford, then Senator Warner.

SENATOR NELSON: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I really didn't think I would come up this soon to speak but I guess