

maybe I should while I do have the opportunity. I'll try to make it as brief as I can. Naturally, I'm going to not be supporting the Withem amendment. I appreciate Senator Crosby's words, but I could hardly, I could hardly think that she was very sincere from some of the remarks and some of the debate, I believe, that would show that she's very much against Kearney becoming a part of the university system.

PRESIDENT: Senator Nelson, may I interrupt you. (Gavel.) Please, let's hold it down so we can hear the speakers.

SENATOR NELSON: Thank you. And I won't belabor on this for very long because I know that Senator Langford and Senator Kristensen and Senator Warner have far more basics and facts than I have. But, having had the opportunity to serve in the Education Committee, I think that we have over 600 other institutions, that Kearney is only one of four that is not a university, 602 with smaller enrollment that is not part of a university system. We were also told that within five or six years maybe all colleges would become universities and Kearney certainly does quality. As for some of the suggestions of the criteria that is needed for an institution to become a university, they have to be over 4,000 in size, and Kearney has an enrollment of, in '89, of 6,861 full-time students, diversity and complexity of program offerings. They have five masters, first professional and doctoral degrees in five disciplines, each maintaining an average of five degrees per year over the past five-year period. Kearney offers now four masters, and I know that they need to offer more. They come into my community and it's a very, very good program. It brings Kearney College into Grand Island, Nebraska, gives those people an opportunity to upgrade their education and still hold their employment. It is accredited by 11 national and regional agencies. In academic credentials, they are very, very good. Sixty percent or over hold doctorate degrees, and I could go on and on. Kearney has reached the position that they do justify being considered as a university. And the economics of it, with one institution, or to bring it in, we need to, and I very much appreciate Senator Withem and Senator Scofield, and all of us realize that we need articulation in education, we need more cooperation. I can think of many, many areas that we would help our whole state to become a better state and better education programs in doing so. But I just wanted to, while I had the opportunity, and I'll make it as brief as I can, try not to ramble, but there are many, many reasons for Kearney to be considered a university. I spoke