

state, and how are we going to coordinate that? Are we going to have duplication by having two university systems? No. The best way to do it is to have one university system, one central administration that will do some coordination under the Board of Regents, to determine what sorts of things we are going to do in higher education, and that is the reason we need Kearney to become part of the university system. Practically, in order to challenge the Attorney General's Opinion, we need to get a case in controversy, and what does that mean? That means we have to pass a bill. You have before you the opportunity to do that, to send a loud and clear message that we don't agree with that premise that every time we want to have a change in higher education, we are going to have a vote of the people. This amendment is very similar to LB 160. Senator Warner has already outlined the three different changes that we have, and I would urge you to look at that, but, basically, we are creating another campus. We are not creating the west branch of UN-L. Kearney is going to continue to operate much as it has in the past, but with the coordination of a systemwide approach in the University of Nebraska, and that is what we are going to look at. We are going to look at the availability of master's programs, and through this study and Senator Withem's study, we will look at role and mission, and that, at the present time, is our plan and goal. I think there are other people who would like to speak to the issue and, at the very least, examine the basic premise that we have. Kearney is acting as a university. We can stick our heads in the sand and say, well, they will be back, they will be back again next year, but the matter only gets worse and the political decision doesn't go away. Kearney needs to be part of the university system, not only for your sake, but for the sake of the entire state to make sure we are coordinated and that we have one body coordinating all the programs that we have, and with that, I would urge the adoption of the Warner amendment.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Scofield, Senator Moore next.

SENATOR SCOFIELD: Mr. President and members, this issue has been with us all session; in fact, it has overshadowed, I think, the broader issues. I am going to speak against this amendment, and I hope that Kearney will understand that it is not out of a recognition of their concerns and their desires, because I listened very carefully to their presentation on 160 and I think I understand what Kearney wants and what they hope to accomplish