

about this. But this is a time for us to, first, respect the legislative process, and in so doing, then also to be state senators, and I just think that this is...it has been presented to you as a test case. It is an opportunity to see how much authority we really have as a Legislature, and that is a frustration. But I think what are we really saying here? We are saying Kearney has put so much heat on this body to become a university that we don't care that the Education Committee couldn't come to anything other than pretty much a deadlock on this issue and we don't really care much what the AG says because we're going to take another opinion which came out of an Omaha firm that isn't even signed and that strikes me as kind of amusing. I don't want to...I don't know this firm from Adam, frankly, so...but I guess I would suggest to you that probably it would be just as easy to get yet another opinion that would lead us off down the other track. So I don't think that we should be distracted by however many opinions any of us might haul into this body. I think this sets a dangerous precedent in terms of the way to raise such an issue in that it absolutely thumbs our nose at what appeared to be a committee deadlock to me. All of us, from time to time, want to thumb our noses at the Attorney General's Opinion when it doesn't agree with the position that we want to take. But I think in this case I don't agree with the reasoning necessarily that the Attorney General used to get to the bottom line but it wouldn't be a lot easier if the bottom line weren't the case but I am convinced that if we decide that it's good policy to move Kearney into the university system that it will, in fact, take a constitutional amendment. That particular decision of the Attorney General's didn't surprise me a bit. I had anticipated that that would be exactly how the AG would rule. And I think the real issue before us today is how do you put together the best higher education system for the entire State of Nebraska? Probably doesn't make a whole lot of difference for me...for my end of the state what happens. My school is so far out there in the west that I don't think we will be greatly affected by this one way or the other. So I am not arguing this from a turf standpoint, although I did have a bill in there, some of you will recall, that said, let's just change the names of all the state colleges. And I agree, Kearney has every reason to call themselves a university. In fact, I would argue and did argue, unsuccessfully, before the Education Committee that we should...we should entertain that name change because it's in the students' best interest to do so. But I'm not so convinced at this point that it is in the state's best interest yet to