

harm our higher education system in the State of Nebraska. The last time we went through this issue was about 20 years ago when the University of Nebraska Omaha was created. Admittedly, as Senator Warner has said, it wasn't studied carefully. It was a floor amendment and off we went. Well, looking back, there are many that see that point in time as a definite point at which the university started to decline to some degree at the Lincoln campus and Lincoln faculty members remember that day and rue that day. Now it's not so much that Omaha shouldn't have been brought under the university's system because I think, clearly, Omaha deserved to be included in the higher education system. They deserved to have a campus. The real question involved with that decision was how it was done? What was the governance? How were the decisions to be made? If central administration was created, could there have been a better system to better control what was happening to have greater cooperation and less conflict? That's the sort of things, looking back, that should have been done back then and ought to be done today. Before we decide to bring this new campus onto the university's system, we should know what's going to happen as a result. What happens to the three state colleges left behind? How are they to work? How do they function together? With the three campuses now in the university's system, how do they interrelate with the Kearney system? What kind of resource division will occur? What kind of role and mission will result? None of these questions have been asked or answered to any degree that I know of at this point. I'm just so disappointed in those that are pushing so hard for this to not recognize there are legitimate concerns and issues yet to even be questioned, let alone answered. And there are many of us... I understand what Kearney wants and maybe some surrounding areas in Kearney, but what about Nebraska? What about our state? What about all of us in this state and what we want and what we hope for in a higher education system? The regional split here is not good for Nebraska. As long as we continue to debate this issue and focus in on it, there will be such a regional split. It's inevitable. Some will accuse us in Lincoln of turf protection and regionalism. At the same time, that same argument can be given back to the Kearney people. Obviously, we're concerned about our own circumstance and the only way you're going to resolve and bring the different factions and regions together is to consider our options, look at our alternatives and if the conclusion is what's best for the state is to take this step, then I see it as being very difficult for individuals like me to deny that action. But, right now, you can't tell me and