

body. We have heard this issue for quite awhile. At some point, you start tuning things out, and I have been sitting here listening with quite an interest. And, yes, I voted in the Education Committee to bring LB 160 out because I thought it was an important enough issue, and I firmly in my heart believe that Kearney State is a university, should be a university, but I hope the body does not get sidetracked, and make the decisions based upon what the real issues are out there and not some of these "shab" issues that have been brought before us today. An example of what I would call a "shab" issue, and I just made up that word, I think, but it seems to apply, would be the AG's decision. If we, as a body, if any member of the body votes today to support this amendment because of this AG Opinion, I am really kind of excited about that because the precedent we set is any time an AG Opinion comes that we do not like, let's pass that piece of legislation because we need to challenge it in the courts to find out for sure. It would change the whole scope of what we do. What I would want is a negative AG Opinion so we could just ensure the bill would be passed, and I don't think that is the precedent we are setting. In fact, Senator Kristensen, I think that would be the dangerous precedent if we vote for the issue on that reason, on that reason. That is not a legitimate reason. Second of all, what has been tremendously lacking in this discussion today is a discussion about where do we want education in the State of Nebraska to be. What do you senators that have spoken and that will speak, what do you believe higher education should be? Who should it consist of? How should Kearney State, if it is a university, and, again, I believe it should be a university, how should that be a part of the university system? What happens to the state colleges? And what we have is a question of unknowns. Senator Morrissey worries about turf, and I understand that. I am, too, as is Senator Kristensen and others. All of us are concerned about those things, but, deep down in our hearts, I believe that what we are concerned about, at least I hope what we are concerned about, is what is best for our children and for those children that grow and that become young adults that go to the University of Nebraska, or the University of Kearney later, or Kearney State later, what is in their best interest educationally? And what we are finding us in a position today is I believe saying, in a nutshell, the following; if we agree with the amendment, we are saying that we, as a Legislature, believe that the best interests of the State of Nebraska are to be served by Kearney State becoming under the university umbrella before the study, and we will have an ongoing study, and if we find out that that