

is not the best way, we will pull off. And I understand those arguments, certainly I have used them in the past. If we do not agree with the amendment, it is my understanding that what we would then have is LB 247, which would look at the state of higher education, which does not preclude discussing of what should happen to Kearney State as a university. LB 247 without the amendment does not preclude that commission or that outside group that will contract out by that commission, as has been amended by Senator Scofield, that would include what do we do with Kearney State? Where should it be? What effect would it have? No discussion has been today about funding. Kearney State is terribly off in funding, 50 percent underfunded, but the thing that has not been stated is, what will this bill do to help that funding? That funding will be decided, as it is now currently being decided, by the Appropriations Committee and later by this body and the Governor of the State of Nebraska, and it will be there for two years...

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: ...of which this amendment will have no affect. So I hope the body, in conclusion, and I know I stand here, it is one of the most difficult decisions I have had to make being here a long time, I hope we decide based on the issues, true issues, and not by some of these side events. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Let the record show that Senator Wehrbein had 23 fourth grade students from Central Elementary in Plattsmouth visiting today in the north balcony. Also, the Chair is pleased to report that Senator Robak has some guests from Humphrey, Nebraska, members of the Future Farmers of America, with their leader. I believe they are now under the south balcony. Would you folks please stand and be recognized. Thank you. We are pleased to have you with us today. Additional discussion, Senator Haberman, followed by Senators Smith, Withem, Korshoj, Scofield, Nelson, McFarland, Lowell Johnson, and Warner. Senator Haberman.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Mr. President, members of the body, I hope you didn't take that announcement off of my time, Mr. Speaker. At this time, fellow legislators, out of the goodness and kindness of my heart and my warm feelings, I yield my time to the questions that want to be asked by Senator Smith.