

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, two or three points. One of the things that we, obviously, are touching on is the political issues involved in these decisions. I doubt that a study is going to change those political issues. What is, in fact, though is the higher educational policy and that's the basis on which the amendment is offered, That was the basis on which the bill originally was introduced. We have heard a number of...well, two things. We have talked in terms of two systems. Actually, in reality we have six campuses within two systems. Each of those campuses currently, excluding the medical school now, have different peer groups. I would suspect that with this you will continue to have different peer groups for each of those institutions because they do serve somewhat of a different purpose and mostly that will continue. The other issue is cooperative programs. We have a 10-year history in which we attempted to provide through state law a system at the graduate level of cooperative programs. I believed very strongly in that when it was done and I have to stand here and say it failed. We provided the funding and it didn't work. Whose fault it was is somewhat immaterial. Now I think we are at a point where we have to recognize that in the graduate field area, and that's the area that becomes significant to avoid duplication and unnecessary cost. I am not convinced, personally at least, that the coordination of graduate programs, having failed what we have tried for 10 years, perhaps can be better addressed by establishing Kearney as a part of the university system and, yes, there will be some graduate programs expansion. They fully expect that, but I also expect that that is justified whether it did or not, so it ought to be in the same system. A few years ago the University of Nebraska...

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR WARNER: ...when you saw the advertising was the campus of 500 miles. I've not seen that in recent years. I'd like to put some emphasis again on the fact that the University of Nebraska is a campus of 500 miles length statewide. By adding the University of Nebraska at Kearney to that system, we can again create not only the appearance of a 500-mile campus, but I believe very firmly that it will, in fact, more in reality become a 500-mile campus which students and citizens across this state can be better served from this point forward. I believe that the study will be consistent with this. The way the