

April 7, 1989

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negative effect on Kearney itself and I think it will dilute funding to the university system. I'd like to...

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR MCFARLAND: I'd like to read a letter that was written by a resident of Kearney to me a few weeks ago and it says, as a resident of Kearney, I understand the benefits of the City of Kearney and surrounding area that may come as a result of Kearney State College being raised to the university, however, I do not believe that making Kearney State a part of the University of Nebraska is appropriate at this time. This amendment leaves too many unanswered questions concerning tuition, role and mission, impact on the state college system and transfer of revenue bonds. Students attending Kearney State College many times cannot afford tuition at the university. A change, as proposed under the Warner amendment, would most probably lead to an increase in tuition and thus adversely affect these students at Kearney State. Kearney State has come a long way in recent years with emphasis placed on curriculum. Kearney State may be deserving of university status in the future, but now is not the appropriate time. Higher education in Nebraska has been seriously underfunded for a number of years. I don't think this structural change will solve that problem and I would urge you to vote against advancement of this bill. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Warner, followed by Senator Withem.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I just want to make a brief comment, too. First, I just want to make it very plain if it isn't, and I'm sure it is, that my vote on this issue is pure one of conviction, that it's the right public policy. But another thought has occurred to me as I was listening to the discussion because it was not inappropriate that we would begin to drift somewhat in some regionalism discussion which was identified as being divisive. I would like to suggest that that is inevitable, but it's far better that that divisive regionalism occurs in this body. We're not unaccustomed to it. We can do it in the next day or maybe the next week, maybe even the next session it takes before we get away from it, but it does heal itself. I would be very concerned if we begin to amend the Constitution piece by piece to do some of these things which would be addressed on a