

that the wisdom of the Legislature would be to proceed along those very lines, that we would study the issue and then act on it. However, again, much to my surprise, the body decided that no study was really needed to act, that we could proceed with Kearney and have a study and proceed in that fashion, which I again don't feel is in the best interest of the state to proceed in that fashion. At the same time, from everything I can tell, the majority of this body maintains that position, but the board of regents, again, vacillating on the issue, now coming down to accepting it, I think probably, mostly because they feel the votes are there to continue down this line. It's going to be very difficult to ask you and expect to have your support in repealing the amendment that was just adopted a few days ago. But let me again express to you why I think we should do that and why we ought not proceed at this time with putting Kearney into the university system. What I said a few days ago was it was perhaps one of the most grievous errors in judgment this Legislature had made in 20 years. I've mellowed a little bit, but I haven't mellowed so much that I retract that statement. I still think, without knowing exactly how we're going to proceed, that it is just as bad as I stated, that it could be that major an error in judgment. It may not be that way because we could find our way through this maze and reach the promised land of a better higher education system, a better coordinated higher education system, one that serves our state well. We could reach that goal with the amendment that was adopted. But my fear is, without knowing where we're going, without knowing how we plan to get there, we could in fact jeopardize a very fine higher education system, one that is just now turning the corner on some problems that we had through the eighties, now getting the research function back up, getting the faculty salaries back up, is now once again thriving and trying to strive for greatness and excellence. At the very moment we're starting to turn the corner and proceed upward, we are also finding a new element thrown into the equation and a concern expressed about what it means and how it will affect our higher education system. What I'd like to do is go through again my concerns about this whole matter. First off, the questions I'd have that I would hope would be answered by Senator Warner and Senator Kristensen and other supporters of this measure, would be the following regarding Kearney, first off, is the concept, moving Kearney into the university system, is it anticipated that Kearney will move aggressively and further graduate programs? Right now they have a master of science in education and a couple of other masters degree programs dealing with education.