

when I saw them up there instead of down on the floor. But then I really knew I was in trouble when it was decided that they got their marching orders from the board of regents. Only I realized, a few days later, that those marching orders were for retreat instead of charge. And retreat they have. So I can't stand here and tell you that there is anybody back there that is going to tell you this is the way to go. I can only argue as best I can on the floor, and others can hopefully argue as best they can on the floor, that you ought to reconsider your action and that we ought not proceed along the lines that we're talking about. If we're really talking about Kearney from what was once a teachers college, its goal being to teach teachers how to teach, to a general liberal arts college. And now we're taking the next step into a university status. I know Senator Kristensen argued, and others I think have argued that it is already university. I'd like to know who defines the university in a way that we can all understand, and why Kearney meets that definition, because my view of a university, perhaps, is different. It's an institution that is a collection, a union of colleges with separate and distinct functions that could, on their own, stand and deliver education. But together....

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR WESELY: ...in the type of university I'm thinking of you're able to provide a mix of graduate degrees, and research, and functions that I think are beyond the present scope of Kearney. And I just wonder by what definition Kearney is now university. And, if Kearney is in fact a university, then aren't the other state colleges university? How is Kearney different than the other state colleges? Another amendment will follow bringing all the state colleges under the university system. And it seems to me again an argument to be made as to why Kearney, why not the other state colleges, what happens to the other state colleges, and how do we address the many issues I've already raised? I'll look forward to discussion, forward to the debate and do not look forward to any personal rancor, because we've had enough of that. And I'd like to stick to the issues on this issue, at least for a little while.

PRESIDENT: May I introduce some guests in the north balcony from Petersburg, Nebraska. Senator Dierks has 13 seventh and eighth graders from Petersburg and their teacher. I think they have just walked out of the Chamber, but we do welcome to the Legislature today. Senator Withem, you are the next speaker,