

University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha, you would be taking away funds from the University of Nebraska at Omaha, and also from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, if we do not fund this program, or fund the university system with Kearney State in it. The other alternative, which I think would be extremely detrimental to Kearney State, would be that if, in fact, we do not provide adequate funding and Kearney State is brought into the university system, then the board of regents will have to restrict activities, restrict programs, make cuts in the programs at Kearney State in order to maintain funding across all four...what would then be the four campuses. That would not be beneficial. As a matter of fact, some of my colleagues have indirectly expressed that one of the advantages of bringing Kearney State into the university system is we, in effect, transfer the responsibility of funding Kearney State from the Legislature, where it now is primarily our responsibility, to the board of regents, and in effect we can then say, well, Kearney State, don't come to the Legislature about your funding issues, go to the board of regents, because we have brought you within the university umbrella, it's the board of regents that makes that funding decision, therefore you should go to the board of regents, and in effect we evade our responsibility about funding Kearney State. I'm not sure that's a good system to put into effect, and I'm not sure what will happen if Kearney State is taken out of the state college system and then you leave Wayne State, you leave Chadron State, you leave Peru State out there on their own and take away Kearney State, which is the largest state college in that system.

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR McFARLAND: I think, in conclusion, that we are making a serious mistake of proposing a study of this problem and then before the study is completed go ahead and make a major change like bringing Kearney State into the university system. Granted, Senator Withem, the study is more inclusive than just the Kearney State issue. But one of the issues that is going to be addressed in that particular study is the Kearney State issue. And it seems very premature to me to be bringing in Kearney State into the university system, at this time, and then study the issue to see if that's a good decision. I think the board of regent's position, the Education Committee's position was let's study the issue first, then after a year, or after we get those conclusions, then we can make the decision and make it a wise decision. I suspect I need not remind you that in 1987