

we commissioned a tax study, I guess it was '86 we commissioned the Syracuse Tax Study,...

PRESIDENT: Time.

SENATOR McFARLAND: ...and everybody went ahead and passed LB 773, the income tax bill, and you can see the trouble that has caused. If we had just waited until the tax study was completed, we would not need...had made the LB 773 mistake. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Nelson, please, followed by Senator Landis and Senator Moore.

SENATOR NELSON: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I certainly will leave a lot of this to Senator Kristensen and Senator Langford this morning. But I think it's well that the body realizes how Kearney State has grown. They are, in effect, a university now. Six hundred schools smaller than Kearney are now university status, four larger than Kearney are not. Senator Wesely sent out the study that was given in December of 1984, I just accidentally happened to read that last evening while I was cleaning some files. In the mid seventies the Governor then, Governor Exon, established the...a study of higher education, and 1202 Commission, coordination of higher education. A long story short, the responsibility and the formation of higher education, and again these studies that we're talking about was given to the Postsecondary Education Commission, and they studied it and all of the four year institutions, nothing really happened then. The same thing again, we study and we study. Their accomplishments in this area was absolutely zero, and one of the reasons is they had no power to act. I don't know whether LB 247 would improve upon that. Kearney has been studied and studied, and to that end it is a growing university outstate. The opportunities for additional masters programs and so on are definitely needed. If Kearney were to become a university on its own, which it will or it is, it would be, as I agree, probably competing with the university in some cases, but not in all cases. If it should, and if it should compete with the university, I know there is the concern of many, and particularly the Lincoln senators, what would this endeavor be to take away from the university? That we cannot allow to happen. And I don't belittle anyone that wants to protect their areas or to protect their schools, but the mission of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln would remain