

ability...ones ability to problem-solve. And, upon reflection, I think that's true in large measure, if ones thinking does not reflect new perceptions about reality. If you fail to recognize new realities, your problem-solving ability comes to an end. And I'm going to oppose the Wesely amendment because in essence I think that's the problem with the Kearney issue, speaking as a senator from Lincoln. The law in this case can't be used to turn back the tide. The law fails when it will not recognize reality, chooses to ignore it, and tries to set up a barrier in contravention of reality, and the reality is that Kearney is a university. Now there is a lot of reasons why that has happened, but it has happened. We can call it a college, but it isn't. And we can fight over a name change or a governance form and we can try to pass out a label, but the truth is the thing is what it is, not what we call it. A rose by any other name would still smell as sweet as the old expression, and what that says is, you can call it a rose or a plumber's helper, but it is what it is, an odiferous flower and you can call Kearney whatever you want but it is, for all intents and purposes, a university. How did that come about? Exactly what I'm talking about, it seems to me that there were needs out there, those needs got recognized and served first by Kearney. Those needs were for nontraditional students who could not go back to the old way of going to college which was a residential living style. They didn't want to move to Lincoln, they couldn't. They had jobs, they were nontradition students. Kearney went out and aggressively recruited, formed a way of marketing to those people and they now have not only their tuition and their student status, but their loyalty and the perception that they have on behalf of Kearney as their alma mater. We have to recognize reality. Whether that came about in a good or a wise or a thoughtless way makes no difference. The point is it has already happened, and if we think we can turn back the clock, we can't. This Legislature errs when it tries to impose outdated names and labels and mechanisms and devices to problems who stem from a reality we do not wish to acknowledge or do not understand. Which is more logical, four universities and three state colleges in which three of the universities are under the board of regents and the state colleges has one university and three state colleges, or four universities under the board of regents and three state colleges under the State College Board? Because that is the choice. The choice is not to make Kearney a university or not, that has happened. The question is, do we want to recognize it? I have a great many people who live in my district, who work at the university, who fear that claims