

perhaps the better course of action is to decide on what we ultimately want to accomplish and put that to the vote of the people, to allow the people in 1990 the chance to decide for themselves what the best course of action higher education is. And that would clearly be allowable. It would not have the cloud over it of constitutionality and I truly believe the better course is to take that step. So for a lot reasons, again, I would urge your support for this amendment.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Schmit is next followed by Senator Scofield and Senator Hefner.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President, it is difficult on an emotional basis not to support bringing Kearney into the university system. They have an excellent institution out there and they've done a good job and they provide a high quality education and it is probably, as has been described here, inevitable that it be a part of the system some day. Maybe now is the time, I don't know. I do think there have been some issues raised here and I don't know anything about what is timely and what is not but it has been suggested to me that it might be possible for the university to adopt Kearney as a satellite, as an extension of the system, but keep UN-L as a major flagship of the system. I think we all want to be sure that the University of Nebraska retains its excellent status and improves upon that. I can recall when UN-O was brought into the system and at that time there was some discussion as to whether or not it would dilute the university. I have to just remind you that as the university expands and grows and spreads across the state there is a more practical aspect of it which I think that we have to consider very frankly, and I can hear some of that from Senator Morrissey's conversation, his concern about Peru. I have not heard too much from Senator Conway but I think there is some genuine concern about the viability of Wayne State but if...we all represent a constituency. I'm not saying this is wrong or it's bad, but I just want to point out that when Kearney becomes a part of the system, for all practical purposes the university has the legislative support to accomplish whatever it needs, whatever they deem necessary and good. I'm not saying whether that is good or bad but I want to call your attention as legislators to the fact that Senator Warner has reminded us of many times that we have an obligation to the entire state and that education is a very vital and important part of that obligation, but it is not the only obligation. And it is easy for us to succumb to the glamour of an excellent