

for all of our higher institutions of education unless we have that coordination. With that, I would like to give the rest of my time to Senator Bernard-Stevens.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Lowell Johnson, please, followed by Senator McFarland. Excuse me, I didn't hear that. Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: How much time is there remaining?

PRESIDENT: Two minutes.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, that should be adequate. I'm just going to be devil's advocate regardless of how I vote today and it has been a very difficult issue for me as many close to the issue can attest. I do want to be a devil's advocate just for a minute and hope that the body when it considers all of the arguments that have put pro and con on this particular issue that we kind of weed through those arguments that are really...on the surface they sound logical but when you get down, do not make any sense for making a decision on this matter and I want to bring up a couple of those arguments on both sides. Number one, it has been argued on the floor today that Kearney as an institution has a person from every, at least from every county in the State of Nebraska. And I guess I'd like to say, gee, that's marvelous, and it is. That's just super, but that has nothing to do with the question. If a county has three people that goes to Kearney, that's wonderful. They may have a lot more that go to another institution and maybe two of them go to Stanford, who knows?

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: That argument has nothing to do with the question whatsoever. The other argument that is out there is that we have two colleges already, two universities already and we need to have one. I'm not so sure that the study on 247 will show that. The study may, in fact, show that, yes, we do have two universities and we need to have two separate universities, but the point that is being made, if there are two universities now, combining the two is not going to change any of those factors. There are still two areas of the state that serve a need. And finally I want to argue that if I were at the University of Nebraska and I was on the board of regents or was just a member of the University of Nebraska on this issue and I