

beared...looked at and borne out in the study back in December of '84 by the Citizens Commission for the Study of Higher Education Toward the Twenty-first Century which did recommend that the four state colleges merge with the university system. And, again, I emphasize that that recommendation also added the caveat that the board of regents should be an appointed, not an elected board, that to bring in the other state colleges and to bring in the other regional providers of higher education will perhaps split the board on regional basis and you ought to go to an appointive board of regents. And so, again, I contend the better course of action would be placing on the ballot in 1990 or perhaps 1992, an amendment which would change the system of higher education, making the adjustments called for in this recommendation and also changing the election procedure for the board of regents. That is the better course of action in my view at this time, again, pending the results of a study and review by this Legislature in LB 247. But in any event, the argument I would make is, and I'd like to hear the arguments back, is why Kearney is singled out and why the other state colleges are not to be included in this change. If Kearney is constitutionally able to do this under this bill, then why not the other state colleges? I've looked at the AG Opinion. I don't know exactly what is going to happen in follow-up to this situation, but it would appear to me that it's as unconstitutional to include Kearney as it would be to have all the state colleges merged under the board of regents. Of course, the other course of action would be to merge the university under the board of trustee's where you'd have the appointive board that I'm talking about. I don't know if anybody has considered that, but certainly there are options here that we need to look at, ideas to consider. One of the other overriding concerns I have is the state colleges. What happens to the state colleges, and the discussion on this amendment, I'd be curious to know what are the hopes and expectations for those three state colleges? If Kearney is moved singularly into the university system, what remains for those other state colleges, what sort of financial support, what kind of role and mission; what kind of relationship will they have, and I truly think we haven't addressed what the other state colleges can expect and hope for if we don't merge them along with Kearney into the university system. So for those reasons, and based on those issues, I would like your consideration of this amendment and support for it.

SPEAKER BARRETT PRESIDING