

I think we should look very seriously at also restructuring the regents. In fact, we probably ought to look at that anyway because they are not geographically very representative right now which may mean why that line from about the middle of the state west means you've got one regent and that may have something to do with why that end of the state, frankly, isn't getting things like it needs to meet its higher education, its stated needs. It's a...particularity NBA. I keep coming back to that but that's the issue right now that is particularly critical out there. So I think I'm going to go ahead and support this, recognizing that we should, in fact, look again at an issue that has been before us before and that's appointing regents and making them more geographically representative as well. But I don't think that I can stand here and argue that the 160 amendment is constitutional but you go too far when you bring the other three in. In fact, as I quickly skimmed the Constitution again, the four colleges are not named by name, but under Section 13 of Article VII, the reference is, the general government of the state colleges is now existing and such other state colleges as may be established by law shall be vested under the direction of the Legislature and a board of seven members and so on. I can't make the distinction legally of what is the difference between taking one out of the system and taking them all out of there? You're diminishing the power of the board of trustees and I think that is unconstitutional and I think that is eventually what the ruling is going to be. But if we're going to test this, then let's not leave everybody else in the dust because that is my real concern about this is if...I would refer you back to my map here of what I have called the Bermuda Triangle of higher education and I think the reason I call it the Bermuda Triangle of higher education is, is if you live outside of that triangle, certainly more than 50 miles, folks, when your tax dollars fly into that triangle they will never be seen again. So I would say if we're going to do this, and if we're going to do something that I think is pretty clearly unconstitutional...

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR SCOFIELD: ...then don't leave everybody else in the dust. Bring us along and make sure this study addresses in an up front and honest fashion what are we going to do with the whole of higher education? Let's not just let the desires of one deserving institution drive the whole study. Let's bring everybody else in. And so I think that we should, in fact, take