

policy question that the body should at least consider, and that at least is my opening discussion in regards to bringing the information to the body for its consideration.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Warner, please, followed by Senator Elmer and Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, just briefly, Senator Wehrbein will be going into more detail. But this was a facility that was originally constructed in 1976. And the plan at that time for the foundations and other aspects of the building was such that a third floor could be added, and it has been reques...on the request list now for obviously a number of years. The library automation of 1.7 million that was mentioned, we received a letter, I think it was last week, may have been the end of the week before, but in any event, that issue, while we were aware the study was being completed, was not officially...was not submitted until the last few days. And when the committee is meeting this evening, it will be reviewing that, along with a number of other items that either we have been asked to look at or things that we know need to make some minor and sometimes technical adjustments in some of the bills. But there isn't any question but what Kearney is substantially crowded, that they have much less available space than most of the other campuses, and, again, I'm not going into detail with that, because Senator Wehrbein has handed out some sheets that will indicate that need. But there isn't any question but what consideration of the facility is appropriate at this time, and I would urge that this project not be deleted.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Elmer is next, but Senator Chizek has had some guests in the north balcony and they are just leaving now. There are 74 fourth graders from Harvey Oaks Elementary School in Omaha with four teachers. But they have left now and we wish we could have welcomed them a little bit earlier. But we're glad they were here. Thank you. Senator Owen Elmer, please, followed by Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR ELMER: Thank you, Mr. President and members. One of the things that is intriguing about looking at the space available for students in Kearney, I remember yesterday talking about the crowded conditions in some of our detention areas in the state, and the prisons and the jails. Currently available at Kearney is 67 square feet per student. It seems as though yesterday we had the jail cells being too small when they're 6