

bill, you try at least to some degree keep an open mind about the issue, as I will. Because as we go forward on this study, I'll try and put behind me what I thought were inappropriate actions this session in the way this whole issue was handled. I'm very upset about that, but life goes on. But I'll try and put that behind me as we try and go forward with the study and review the issue and try and decide what is best for Nebraska. We have to do that, we have to join together and figure out what we're going to do here. And at the same time understand that this is not an absolute decision, there is a constitutional quest, there is a study and let's see what we find out of that. But I, for one, again feel that we're making a serious mistake by proceeding in this fashion. I wanted to state that for the record. I think again, as I said before, that this mistake will be long into the future. We may not see its consequences for the next few years, we may see it in the next few years. But I certainly think years down the road we'll wonder why we didn't think this through more carefully before we acted. With that, I will withdraw the motion.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. The motion is withdrawn. Mr. Clerk, do you have any other motions?

CLERK: Mr. President, I do. Senator Withem would move to return the bill.

PRESIDENT: Senator Withem, please.

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes, thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. Really don't know what to say, I guess, to Senator Wesely's remarks. He described a situation that I not only disagree with, I haven't...maybe I've been on a different floor. I guess I haven't seen any "ramming down the throats", things to be resentful under. I see a policy decision that the Legislature has made and is continuing to make that may not be one that he agrees with, which is certainly his right and option. But I think that this has been a thorough discussion of this issue, that the Legislature knows what it's doing, the Legislature knows it's bringing one institution from the state colleges into the university system, and that it needs to do a lot more in the area of higher education, and I'd like to focus my remarks on that portion of the bill, what I think is the meat of the bill. I'm pleased for those senators who feel strongly about Kearney wanting to come into the system that it's in this bill and that it's going to happen as a result of this bill, and