

there isn't a whole lot of focus on it, frankly, but for those of us who care a great deal about higher education, it is of great importance. And the issue really is this, where are we coming from and where are we going to? Where we're coming from is that we have had a system of higher education that has had four basically state teachers' colleges that have served four regions of the state, in the southeast, southwest, northeast, northwest, that have evolved into more than being state teachers' colleges and are considered campuses of liberal arts that are more than they once were. But, nevertheless, their function is not the same as the function of the University of Nebraska as established in Lincoln which was a land grant institution established over a 100 years ago with the intent of serving the whole state, of providing not only teaching but research and public service. It had a function far beyond that originally envisioned of the four state teachers' colleges, now four colleges, state colleges, that we have around the different areas of the state. In addition, UN-O originally was a city university, Omaha University, there to serve the City of Omaha, primarily again as a teacher function. It has eventually evolved out of that and became part of the university's system. But its function and its history are quite different than that of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and the evolution of a higher education system is something we can't lose sight of. Where we came from is very different places, but now we have come together into this issue today as we reach a crossroad and we have to, I think, decide where we go to. And it seems to me understanding the differences in background and differences in focus is important. Those of us from Lincoln have a great concern because we see the Lincoln campus as the statewide campus, the land grant institution, the function of which is far beyond that of the other campuses. Now the Medical Center fits more closely with that of the Lincoln campus because of its statewide focus, its research focus. And if you want to look at those institutions that are statewide in scope, it would be the Medical Center and the University of Nebraska at Lincoln and so there is some logic to the McFarland amendment. I think, more than anything, I anticipate it unlikely that the amendment is adopted. More than anything, hopefully, you will start to think about what the role and mission of these different campuses are and how this issue before us today changes that role and mission, how we change the face of higher education in this state and, of course, the great concern among us in Lincoln and I hope the rest of the state is, will that new face be one we find attractive or one that we find repulsive? And a great