

in higher education coordination. Kearney was just a symptom of that problem of coordination. It was a growing institution. It was starving because of the lack of coordination, lack of coordination between the other state colleges, lack of coordination with the University of Nebraska system itself, and I think that is probably true. You voted to put Kearney into the University of Nebraska system because it was one way to stop the bleeding, it was one good idea. It was something that had to be done. We didn't particularly have a choice because you were going to sacrifice the institution at that point. For the rest of us to come at this point and say, well, that was last year's problems, we don't have those problems this year. Nobody is in here wanting to change higher education this year. That is not true. The problem has not gone away, in fact, could be worse. If the Supreme Court comes down and rules that we, as a Legislature, don't have the powers to change higher education structure and to do some minor things that we have proposed to do, where are we at? We are going to be at least another year down the line without any powers of higher education coordination or structure. I guess I just rise this afternoon to tell you that if you voted for Kearney last year, you voted for a change for a reason. And that reason was we have problems in the structure of higher education and the Legislature had to come in and make those changes. We now have a Board of Regents who, all of a sudden, are interested in doing coordination. They are interested in bringing back the Coordinating Commission. They are interested in attending meetings. They are interested in doing all of these things that they should have been doing the whole way along, but they haven't done it. And why did they do it? It is because the Legislature last year took the stand and said, look, we have had enough of this nonsense from you, and this is what we are going to do. And so they placed Kearney State into the University of Nebraska system. That doesn't mean that the problem of coordination has gone away. Who is next? I would venture to say maybe Chadron will come in with problems of coordination. Maybe Wayne, maybe Peru that are next. The problem is not going to go away. Those institutions need coordination as much as any other institution in this state, and the only way to do that is with a start in LR 239. And so I guess I would put away, aside, of how do we fix the problem, but focus you have got a problem. If we don't address it this year, you are done. It is going to be awhile before you go back to coordination and you are going to wait and I don't think we can afford to do that. With that, I would vote against the bracket motion and I think it is something we should