

late sixties that the merger was started, when they started talking about it because Municipal College of Omaha, I think that's what it was called, was having financial problems and having a problem keeping its door open so I can understand why, when the merger was completed and there were certain agreements there that they were not going to have two engineering colleges. The other thing, years ago they had a night law college. I know they did because I knew men who graduated from that college, so I'm sure that people who are loyal to Creighton certainly don't want another law college over in Omaha, so this is the other thing that worries me when we start talking about a college. We have to have a College of Law. We have to have a College of Engineering. We have to have a College of Architecture. We have to have a college of everything, so I think this is why we have to be very careful, plus the Coordinating Commission and the University Regents and the President have a time line and they're working on it and Appropriations was trying to work with them. So that's all I'm going to say and I'll yield the rest of my time to Senator Beutler.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Withem, members of the Legislature, we're getting to the point now where I think most of the points have been made. We've talked about the Coordinating Commission and the role and the process and we've talked about the President's plan and we've talked about the fact that much is being done, very much is being done on this matter already and I just want to emphasize one point. I'm not going to be quite as nice as Senator Warner because I think the point is important because perception is very important and that letter that was written by that segment of the Omaha business community was entirely and completely inappropriate. It was extortionist in nature. It puts this institution in the position of defending its independence. Right now, the public is watching us to see how we're going to react to that letter and if you show a reaction, I suggest to you that there's going to be a very large negative public reaction to us. We ought to be doing things just the way we're doing them. The President of the university ought to be doing things just the way he's doing them. We're doing things the right way, the rational way and Senator Hall is not a part of the extortionist letter, but his timing is, in my opinion, absolutely the worst it could be on this particular matter and I think it would be a major, major mistake to adopt anything like this that appears in any way to give in to what is