

Warner sees potential for problems

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KEARNEY — The court challenge of the law that will make Kearney State College part of the university system is a test case that will measure the power of the Nebraska Legislature, Sen. Jerome Warner of Waverly said.

The results of the court challenge, instigated by Attorney General Robert Spire's questions about the law's constitutionality, will show the Legislature if it has the authority to move an educational institution, like KSC, from one system to another, Warner said.

Warner was in Kearney Tuesday to speak to the South Platte United Chamber of Commerce meeting.

WARNER SAID there could be problems in the future if the court decision requires amendments to the constitution every time there are changes in Nebraska's higher education systems.

On the other hand, Warner said, if the court decision is too broad it



JEROME WARNER

could make the Legislature's authority so general that basic changes in higher education could be made without a vote of the people.

Warner said he hopes the law will survive the court challenge. But in any case, he added, KSC's recognition as a university is inevitable.

Warner said KSC already resembles a university more than it does the other state colleges.

IF KSC DOESN'T become part of the university system, it prob-

SPUCC directors favor federal money for bus line

KEARNEY — Nebraska's congressional delegation in Washington, D.C., can expect to get more letters of support for subsidies to help Black Hills Stage Lines of Norfolk continue its southern route from Omaha to Denver, following passage of a resolution Tuesday by the South Platte United Chamber of Commerce Directors.

The directors approved a resolution drafted by the Holdrege Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors renewing support for federal help in keeping bus service in south-central Nebraska.

Black Hills Stage Lines officials have said they can't continue to operate the route at a

loss. Although no date for the discontinuation of service has been proposed, schedule manager Jim Maly has said a decision about the fate of the route will be made soon.

Bus service now is offered five days a week along the southern route, which includes stops in the SPUCC communities of Hastings, Minden, Holdrege and McCook.

SPUCC President Roy Landis of Holdrege encouraged the directors to keep writing letters of support for the bus service to the congressional delegation, Gov. Kay Orr and other state officials.

In other business, Landis made tentative committee appointments. He asked the di-

rectors to confirm their willingness to serve on the committees in time to make the appointments official by the SPUCC's August meeting.

A new committee on education was established to monitor issues affecting area elementary, secondary and higher education schools.

The committee was proposed by Merle Johnson of Orleans, and he was named as chairman. Ted Gill of Arapahoe will serve as vice chairman. Colleges in the region will be asked to name a representative to the committee.

ably will become a competing university, Warner said. That situation would have adverse effects on the state's economy, he said.

Warner said he doesn't expect KSC's switch to the university system to have a great impact on the state's budget.

Opponents of LB247, the bill that will make KSC a university by July 1991, argue that the University of Nebraska at Omaha's move to the state university system had adverse effects on the budget.

"But that was a totally different situation," Warner said.

The college in Omaha was

funded by the city before it was placed under the university umbrella, he said. KSC already is funded by the state.

"IT'S ONLY AN issue of what kind of system (KSC) should be under," Warner said.

Warner said he supports the study of higher education called for in LB247. He said he expects the study to make recommendations on the tax structure for state-funded community colleges.

In addition, Warner addressed: **■ Prison overcrowding.** Warner said alternative sentencing prog-

rams and housing may not be the answer to the state's overcrowded prisons.

Warner said many assume more prison cells mean more people imprisoned and greater expense to the state.

BUT WARNER said if the state doesn't address the problem of prison overcrowding, the current 135 percent capacity in the state's prison system soon will grow to 150 percent. Warner said the 150 percent level seems to be the point where lawsuits are triggered.

Those potential lawsuits, if

similar to litigation in other states with prison overcrowding problems, could cost Nebraska more than building additional prisons, Warner said.

■ The state's highway improvement plans. Warner said the current plan calls for the improvement of thousands of miles of Nebraska highways statewide.

Almost every area in the state will be affected by the highway improvements, he said.

The accelerated highway improvement plan will be funded by an average 2.9 cent tax on motor fuel.

■ Deficit spending in Nebraska. Warner described deficit spending as hazardous for the state.

Deficit spending should be kept under control if the state continues to strive to balance receipts with expenditures, he said.

"We don't want to repeat mistakes made in the past," he said.

■ Revenue sharing with local governments. Warner warned that revenue sharing with local governments of state income tax revenues should be done carefully.

The revenue sharing is beneficial to the local governments, he said, but if it is overdone it can reach a level the state can't afford. In the end, all Nebraskans would pay more.