

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Madam Chair and members of the Legislature, I support this bill. I know a lot of the people who would go to Metro Tech to take academic courses. If you watched Channel 7 yesterday on a program called Kaleidoscope, you would have seen a young black actor playing the part of Paul Robeson and giving an excerpt from a one-man performance he intended to give. He had mentioned that there was a high school principal who was very interested in the black students having jobs. He would make sure that all of the young black women went into the houses of white women to do their work and the young black men would wind up as shoeshine boys. So when I hear a statement about the functional illiteracy of large numbers of black people, I am deeply troubled by it. But I am even more troubled when policy makers rather than try to rectify that situation will say that all of us should be shunted into those jobs that are dead-ended and will perpetuate an eternal class of servants. White people are educated to be leaders and rulers. Black people are trained to be workers, flunkies, servants and an inferior class for everybody's exploitation. The people who would take advantage of a program like this at Metro Tech are not going to go to the college of St. Mary's. They are not going to go to Creighton University. They are not going to go to Bellevue College. They often do not have transportation and can walk to Metro Tech. So for the rest of you who can go along so blithely talking about the wonderful educational opportunities made available to the people that I represent, the people that I am a part of, you ought to ask questions of those who understand. There is not a genuine concern in this Legislature or anywhere in this country with the welfare of the downtrodden, the powerless, the voiceless, those who because of lack of education, lack of nutrition, lack of proper medical care, will be converted into a group who will have no means to improve their own condition, no hope of ever improving that condition. When I went to elementary school, I had a great amount of trouble learning how to print my name and read because I had some teachers who did not care whether I learned or not and maybe were put there to make certain that I didn't learn. I spent a lot of time in libraries even when I was in high school, even when I was at Creighton University, because my experience