

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER. Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I'm not sure, as much as I am in favor of scholarship programs, I'm not sure if I can vote for this bill with any money in it. Senator Landis mentioned to you that you have about \$15 million more dollars to spend if you hope to stay within the 19 percent tax rate and he kind of passed over real quickly the fact that you are dropping the reserve to 4 percent to do that. Now if you intend to keep a 5 percent reserve which I would suspect the majority in here clearly would want to keep, you don't have \$15 million to spend. You have considerably less than that. Pardon me? 7.1? Well there is one teachers retirement bill. That is what you have left this session. Thank you.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Hoagland. You were the last one, Senator Hoagland, so, Senator Kahle, would you like to close on your amendment?

SENATOR KAHLE: Mr. President, members, I hope you will vote your conscience. I don't know which is the right figure. We started out with \$5 million. It seemed to me that \$800,000 was certainly reasonable. As you know we have a good many students in the State of Nebraska in both public and private schools who could benefit from this funding. It just seems to me that it is important and we know there are many young people that are having trouble funding their education. We are raising the tuition every year at both the University and state colleges and I understand even the tuition is going up considerable at our technical community colleges so it makes it a little more difficult for our young people to go to school. I certainly agree with Dave Landis that most young people are going to have to work and probably take a little more time to get their education if they can't, if they don't have the funding or their parents can't help them. But I think that we have kicked this thing around long enough. It was up before us last year. It has been hanging up there since we started the session and I would hopefully ask you to support the \$800,000. I think it is a very realistic figure and certainly a long ways from