

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you. I have had passed out to you a copy, two sheets here, that give you some figures and some data regarding the community colleges. If you would look at the first column, you will see that Central Community College which is the one that I am most directly affected by in my own area has seen these kinds of changes. Number one, they have had a reduction because of valuation, the revaluation of land values, of 5.48 percent, and that would be as far as the valuation is concerned, \$546 million, which has resulted then in a tax reduction from FY 86 to \$382,000. Eighty-two of 83 counties will decrease in valuation due to LB 271 according to the latest projections of the Department of Revenue. At the same time we have seen enrollment increases for FY 84-85. Central Community College credit enrollment has increased by more than 2,000 students or 14 percent in the four years between '81 and '85, from 14,788 people or students to 16,865, and credit enrollment for FY 85-86 is already 400 students ahead of last year. In all areas, credit enrollment has increased more than 20,400 students or 34 percent in the four years from '81-82 to '84-85. At the same time they have seen program reductions in Central Community College in FY 85-86. They have reduced their operational budget by \$400,000. They have terminated 14 full-time positions, reduced hours and/or days for 38 other positions. They have eliminated two programs which are construction trades and masonry and they have closed two instructional facilities. They have also seen revenue reductions and they have made cost reductions to the tune of the things that you see here stated below. State aid is \$300,000 less than since FY 83-84, and 50,000 less based on the Governor's budget recommendations will be the new decrease. Property tax, 382,000 less based on LB 271 in FY 84-85. Federal funds, 128,000 reduction in federal vocational reimbursement for teachers salaries for FY 85-86. Tuition increase of 13 percent since '84-85 to try to cover some of these reductions. At the same time they have seen utility increases by 9.5 percent increase over the last two years, and liability insurance by 25 percent increase since '84. So these are the reasons that we are asking for this bill. It is very necessary for the community colleges to continue to operate and I will release my time now to anybody else that wants to speak on the issue. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Amendment on the desk.