

item to mention. That has to do with a special meeting that the appropriations committee will hold at noon tomorrow. At noon we will hear a discussion of vocational technical education, especially as it concerns two areas. One, the North Platte area the mid-plains area, and the other one Central Nebraska Technical area which includes the Hastings, Grand Island, and Columbus operations. Those of you who may have an interest in vocational technical education are invited to sit in on this special hearing to call some of the administrators in and can confront them then with some of the inconsistencies that they have been spreading to the public in the last few days. So in conclusion I would like to say that this legislature in its power has tremendous flexibility in the next few days several alternatives to take as far as budgets are generally concerned and specifically I point to capital construction in the idea that it is entirely possible to take a major item in this particular area and amend one of two or three operations budgets as we begin to debate these issues in the weeks to come. I bring this up now Mr. President and members of the legislature because we don't have too many days left and we read all kinds of things in the press and I want to say to you that this is a very democratic body and I think that the budget process provides you with as much flexibility as a...a..in the days to come as in some of the other areas.

PRESIDENT: Chair recognizes Senator F. Lewis.

SENATOR F. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman to respond to a couple of things here. Yesterday in the Omaha World Herald, and I'm sorry about that Dick Herman but that is where it was. There is an indication that there has been some up-dates and projections of revenues, that obviously the paper has first hand knowledge of that we don't. I see that we are now projecting a 15% growth rate as opposed to the previous projections of 10%. I have asked this morning that our staff, be directed to draw up their finalized version of what the projected income of this state is going to be and what the rate is and the justification of that rate and to see how that justification corresponds to the justifications of the like states being made in this country today. Iowa, Kansas and see what they project their growth rate to be and we will be in kind of the same ball park. To look at a month by month collection over the past 5 or 6 months to see what the trend is in the growth rate to see what the projected dollar figure or appropriated by or recommended by the budget committee is to look at the "A" bills that have been passed or are pending to look at major expenditures and deficiency appropriations and to give this legislature an honest picture of where we stand as far as dollars are concerned. Dollars generated and dollars proposed to be expended. I would also almost go as far as to suggest that that should be placed on that big board that was up there with a quote by Socrates which was mis-spelled but to put it on the board and allow the legislature to know where we stand in collections and expenditures. So that we have a full and fair picture of what is happening as a far as the financial state of this state is concerned.

PRESIDENT: Senator Carpenter.

SENATOR CARPENTER: Mr. President, let me remind Senator Lewis that the fiscal staff is under the executive board. I would say to the fiscal staff now, don't proceed on this until you get our permission. We want to know what we are doing before