

the two and a half mills they have today they wouldn't get approval for that. I think we should reject Senator Koch's amendment. I do not think the western part of the state should be treated differently. I think the western area is going to have to look at some other means to solve its problems. Now the state aid formula that is contained in Senator Koch's amendments and in the bill is a good one and I intend to support that but I cannot support a different mill levy for the western third of the state for technical community colleges than for the rest of the state. Now the problem has been discussed about valuation. They say that the counties in the western part of the state have not revalued and that is the reason that the Western Technical Community College area and Mid-Plains cannot attain an increase sufficient under their existing mill levy limit to reach that 7% annual increase and there may be some truth to that but are you going to make a similar exception for all other political subdivisions? The technical community colleges are not the only political subdivisions in western Nebraska and if you are going to make an exception on a mill levy limit for them, then you ought to do it for everyone else to be fair. I don't think that the technical community colleges deserve that kind of special treatment and I don't think that the people of Nebraska, of western Nebraska want to pay increased property taxes for support of technical community colleges. I would ask you very strongly to reject Senator Koch's amendment to LB 363. I would make one more very brief point. Last year in LB 803 we gave some special treatment to western Nebraska. That was a one shot deal and that is finished and now we have a study formula that is going to meet part of their problem but let's not treat the western part of the state differently when it comes to mill levies. I would like to yield the rest of my time to Senator Haberman.

SENATOR CLARK PRESIDING

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Nichol. Oh, he doesn't have any time left, Senator Haberman. Senator Nichol is up next.

SENATOR NICHOL: Mr. Chairman, members of the Legislature, each year we go through this with Senator Cullan. Why is it he doesn't want this Western Nebraska Technical College to have any more money? It is obvious. In the northern part of the panhandle there is where the problem is. They will not bring their valuations up to where they ought to belong. Now what is in the northern part of the panhandle?