

we are teaching students. Also, it might have some effect at taking away local control if the Department of Education is going to make up all the rules and regulations pertaining to this bill. Then again we have the \$3 million this year, and the \$3 million next year, and where are we going to get the money. The result of why we need this money is because it is one of the federal programs that came in with a lot of money, we took the money, started a program. Now the federal government has changed their plans, changed the entire project and we're going to have to come up with some dollars to counteract that change and withdraw from the federal government. So at this time I am kind of indecisive on LB 415, so I'll listen to debate from some of the other people. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Senator Hefner.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President and members of the body, I'm glad that I follow Senator Haberman because, Senator Haberman, I want to convince you that this bill is okay. I know the \$3 million fiscal tab kind of bothers me, but I think it is time that we invest a little more money in vocational education for our students in high school. Many students in our high schools need vocational training. They need this training to see what they want to do, whether they want to go on to an academic school, or whether they want to keep on with their vocational program. This appropriation, this \$3 million appropriation, will allow them to do that. This bill will, in no way, hurt the academic training that we have in our schools. It would help assist the small schools that cannot afford to have these programs without our help. I've been in contact with some of the schools in my area and they say if we don't get some more help, or get some help for this program, we will not be able to continue it. I'm not going to deny the fact that this program is going to cost us more dollars. It is. I see the fiscal impact of it is \$3 million for this coming fiscal year, and Senator Haberman, it will continue from year to year. But I have seen what vocational education will do for some of these students that are not interested in the academic training. I feel that it gives an individual student an opportunity to see if they are interested in vocational education, or maybe some of them aren't. Maybe the others are interested in academic education, but at least they can make that decision while they are still in high school. Therefore, I would urge you to support this bill.