

all of the other issues bound up in these books, but the big issue is going to come down to the budget. It is clear to me that this body is not willing, or does not want to raise taxes, and quite frankly to add an additional \$3 million burden onto the budget by the passage of LB 415, I think would send out a negative message by raising taxes. I think it's equally as bad to send out a message that we advance this bill all the way to Final Reading and possibly pass the bill, and yet delay the implementation of spending the money to support the program. That bothers me a great deal. I've seen that happen many times on this floor. I think it is not the message we need to send out to our schools. I don't debate the need and the necessity of vocational education in our schools. I think it is clear, that based on the direction that agriculture is headed, that a number of young people that come from rural backgrounds, farm backgrounds, probably are not going to be farmers in the future, that they are going to need skills outside of production agriculture to survive, and possibly vocational education can provide those programs for those young people. But at this time the dollars are not here. The budget simply won't support LB 415. I guess it is frivolous for us to debate an issue that, quite frankly, in the end we may not be able to support with our dollars. As much as I'd like to see LB 415 advanced and passed, and let me tell you it would be a great thing for my district, which has a lot of rural areas and rural small schools, I hesitate to see this bill advanced and send a message that we are going to do something with vocational education and then at the last second pull out on them, as we've done in other areas with students such as the scholarship program that we passed and have yet to put any money into. I suppose there are a number of other issues that Senator Warner could give to us that we've passed money bills like this one where we've sent out a message of good intent and unfortunately not been able to put the money where our mouth was. So I urge you to carefully think about this bill, carefully think about the cost involved in implementing such a program. The benefits certainly will be there, but we must also think about the many other proposals that we have to debate yet this legislative session. So I concur with Senator Beutler and Senator Haberman in hesitating to see this bill advanced off of General File at this point. There may be a time that this body chooses to raise our taxes to meet obligations. If there is some money laying around, specifically \$3 million, maybe then we can fund the program. But at this point I hate to see us