

advance this bill today based on the fact that we have not made up our minds yet which direction we are headed as far as the budget is concerned. Clearly that is the major issue facing the Nebraska Legislature this year.

PRESIDENT: Senator Remmers.

SENATOR REMMERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I rise to oppose the bill. I have no problem with the \$3 million. In fact, I had a bill in the Revenue Committee that would have given 130 million to the schools. It didn't come out of the committee that way, but I have no reluctance to back \$3 million for school purposes. But I think this is the wrong way to go. In the first place I have said many times that I have a philosophical position in this type of legislation. I've said on this floor, a number of times, that I am opposed to the Legislature deciding what is important to teach in the classroom. We are not educators, we have a State Board of Education that oversees our education. We have a State Department of Education that operates under the State Board of Education. I think it is the function of this body to decide, along with the schools themselves, what should be taught. Philosophically I don't think we have any business appropriating money for particular courses. I don't think we should use either stick or carrot to decide what should be taught in the schools. Furthermore, you are going to set this up so that the money has to be spent in a certain area, which says that a school then is going to set a course, try to meet these regulations, and they are going to introduce...they are going to have a class, whether they really feel they need it or not because the money is there, if they don't use it, why they are not going to get it. If you simply put \$3 million in the state aid formula, the money will be divided to the schools. They will get the same amount of money. Then the schools can decide themselves what they want to teach. I could go on a long time in support of what Senator Beutler has said. I hope you were listening to what Senator Beutler said. I'm not going to repeat his position, but I totally endorse what he said. Another thing about the vocational programs in the secondary level that you have to be concerned about is the tremendous cost of a good vocational program. There are things the schools can do today. I believe it has been ten years ago that I made a tour of the western part of the state where several of the high schools were busing there kids into, I believe, Scottsbluff for