

vocational training, bringing in a bus load of kids in the afternoon to study. They can do that now on their own. But if we are going to have every school try to set up a vocational program, the kind you are talking about is a very expensive thing. I have seen, too many times, that kids that have neglected their basic courses, you can say, well it is not going to substitute for the basic courses, it certainly is. You can only take so many courses when you are going through high school. If you spend all your time on vocational courses, you are not going to get the basics, and as Chris Beutler said, you have late bloomers sometimes that maybe they think they are not good students. This is one thing I like about the vocational tech. colleges that we have. I've seen a lot of students that have started at tech. colleges where they do have good vocational programs, and after being there for a year have decided, now wait a minute, I believe I want to go farther than this, and then transfer into the University or state colleges. Vocational programs, the kind you are talking about cost a lot of money. I'm not sure which direction you are going to go. You are talking about these small schools. Are you going to put in an automotive mechanics course in detail? There is no way that a small school can satisfy the needs of all their students. So you are going to be selective and maybe force those that want it to take just one course. You can't cover all the vocational courses. You can give some preliminary training in most vocational courses. If we are going to put \$3 million in, let's put it into the state aid formula and they will get the money, and let them use it the way that they feel that their community wants to use it. I feel this bill should be killed.

PRESIDENT: Chair recognizes Senator Higgins.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, senators. I kind of agree with Senator Rod Johnson, that it is a shame that we send a message to the people that we are going to fund vocational education for youngsters who either did not have the incentive in high school, who did not have the parents that gave them the incentive to go on to higher education, or even perhaps they didn't have the teachers that had the enthusiasm to teach in such a manner that would encourage them to go further. We are talking about \$3 million. The fiscal budget this year, for economic development, is more than 16 million, more than 16 million for economic development. Are we going to send a message to the people