

to address one part of the package.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Hoagland, may I interrupt you a minute.

SENATOR HOAGLAND: Sure.

SPEAKER NICHOL: (Gavel.) The conversation level is too high and we are having trouble hearing the speakers so we would appreciate it if you would hold it down a little bit. Thank you, Senator Hoagland.

SENATOR HOAGLAND: Let me say initially that this is particularly difficult for me because the Medical Center used to be in my legislative district. I have a number of close friends that are on the staff and on the faculty of the Medical Center. But as I look into the facts of this case, it seems to me that this cut is something that we ought to make not just this year but any year. Now the purpose of this particular cut is to raise the tuition rates at the Medical Center to reflect tuition rates to average peer institutions. And what it means specifically is that we will raise the tuition for medical students, first and second year medical students, from \$3,100 a year for first and second year students, as projected the way LB 722 is written right now, to approximately \$3,900 a year. For third and fourth year students from \$3,700 a year... I'm sorry, from \$4,100 a year to about \$5,300 a year, and this is all set out in a handout that has been distributed to all of you. Now if you look at the five peer institutions that are listed in the handout, the rates for next year for medical students, and again think in terms of a first and second year medical student having \$3,000 in tuition to pay, only \$3,000 to pay in tuition for that first and second year, while Creighton at the same time charges \$10,800 for a first year or a second year medical student, and that rate even as raised by the Appropriations Committee, as Senator Warner indicates, by 10 percent, still makes it lower than three of the five peer institutions, about the same as one, and higher only than the University of Oklahoma which is at 2,600. Now I think first we should discuss the philosophy of state government underwriting graduate professional educations. To what extent is it appropriate for the taxpayers to underwrite the education of people that are going to medical school or law school or other of our lucrative professions? Now underwriting undergraduate