

Furthermore, in the book, Legislators Guide to Nebraska State Agencies, the numbers that it gives there for ITV and I am sure most of you don't have that before you, but for the lessons produced it has gone from 36 in 1981-'82 down to an estimated 8 for this next year. Lessons purchased or leased was 1300 in 1981-'82 and now it is 755. So, obviously, they are not purchasing because they have got a number of them already on hand. But they are still purchasing far more than they produce. At one time Nebraska was one of the leaders in the nation in producing them, but since these consortiums have got started it is simply cheaper to produce them than buy them already produced than it is to produce them yourself. Again, I want to reiterate that this is not a reduction in the funds, a reduction in the amount of the committee amendment but simply a shift within programs. I would ask you for the adoption of this amendment. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Withem, please.

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes, Mr. President and members of the body, very briefly I would like to rise to ask you to support Senator Vickers' amendment. To be very honest with you, when I first heard that the folks in the Department of Education were concerned about losing their curriculum consultants, I was prepared to oppose their attempt to get their money back in the budget. However, I want to reemphasize what Senator Vickers has said. This is not an attempt to put money back into the budget. This is a fiscally neutral amendment. Basically, what we have done in here, we have established a number of educational programs and we have given them to the Department of Education to administer and we have told them we want you to do as good a job as you can providing good quality educational services to the schools in our state. What they have done is they have come back to us and they have said, we prefer in carrying out the mission you have assigned to us, using our money slightly differently than the way the latest Appropriation Committee recommendation maintains. They say they would like to keep their curriculum consultants and use a little less money on ITV. I think that is a reasonable request. They are not coming back in trying to break the budget or steal more money for their programs. They are just saying given their expertise on how they feel their mission should be carried out, they feel it could be done better if they had a little bit of money left in their