

budget for the curriculum consultants. For that reason, I would ask you to support this amendment.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Scofield, please.

SENATOR SCOFIELD: Mr. President and members of the body, I would rise to urge you to oppose the Vickers amendment, not because I don't think we need to take a hard look at what we are doing in ITV, we do. It is becoming an extremely expensive proposition and I think perhaps one of the alternatives that we need to look at is certainly the purchasing of ITV services elsewhere. As Senator Vickers already pointed out, that does go on right now. And yet Nebraska has established a national reputation for production and some of the things that we have done have, in fact, generated some revenue, not all. But more importantly than that, there is no guarantee that the production that you produce will generate revenue. But some of the things we need in this state, frankly, I think probably could not be produced to fit the needs of Nebraska elsewhere. I am not sure that it is a wise decision to consider not producing anymore. We certainly should consider a cap on what our productions cost and I think we should also consider a total review of where we are in this area with coordinating between ETV and ITV and, in fact, the committee has discussed doing that this summer in cooperation with the state board and ITV and ETV. And so I think at this time it would probably be unwise to make this shift, although we certainly are, I believe, going to make some shifts in the very near future. Furthermore, I have to tell you that based on the calls that I get from the teachers in my district and I would be curious to know if the response from the rest of you has been the same, but the calls I am getting from the teachers in my district are very pro-instructional television and they tell me, I can't get along without this and they tell me they like a lot of the programs that have been produced in Nebraska. I have not had a single call from a teacher telling me that they need this curriculum consultant service and quite unfortunately I have even had a few teachers tell me that they are not very happy with the services they are getting. And so I guess in light of the direction we are going with the budget and the chances of us funding 994 right now I think are pretty slim anyway, and so I think it is premature. I think we need to continue to talk about this. I don't think we want to close the door on this, but I don't think today is the day to make