

SENATOR VICKERS: Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, members, I offer an amendment to strike all of the sections of LR 313 and offer some new language which you should have a copy of on your desk. Let me begin by saying that I second the words of my colleague, Senator DeCamp, about the importance of that facility to the State of Nebraska and tell you that even though this is in my district, it is within 15 miles of where I live, I've told these folks that I will vigorously oppose any move to eliminate that school so long as there is a demonstrated need for it, and as long as they are providing a service that the State of Nebraska needs. This is not an attempt on my part to keep economic development in Curtis, Nebraska, alive. It is an attempt, even though it will, it is an attempt instead to meet a state need, a demonstrated state need. Now the differences between this amendment and the one offered by Senator DeCamp, Haberman and Pappas is that if you'll read the resolution as introduced it says that we're going to give the facility to the federal government. Maybe you trust the federal government a lot more than I do, but I don't think giving it to the federal government is going to be any indication that it is going to be kept open at all. I don't think offering it to the federal government, saying we're going to give them the whole thing, is going to say that we're not only going to keep the school open as it is now, but we are also going to add to it. That is not what it says. I'll tell you that is not what the folks at Curtis, Nebraska, think it says either. As to whether or not they are going to close the school, Senator DeCamp said he thinks it is going to be closed, I'm not sure too many people know this, I'm not sure that Senator DeCamp even knows it and Senator DeCamp indicated that it could be closed, but the fact of the matter is under our statutes the school at Curtis, Nebraska, is created by statute. It doesn't say "may" like it does for the other colleges, it says "shall." My contention is that it would take a statutory change. This body would have to act along with the Board of Regents in order to close that school. So, since our statute says that it shall be operated, it seems appropriate to me that we have the resolution from this body indicating our continued support for what our statute says and encouraging the Board of Regents to continue their maintenance and support of that facility as well. Now let me talk for just a minute about what that school does. It is true it is a technical school, but it serves a purpose different than the