

technical schools under the college...community college technical area concept. The majority of the graduates of that facility are from Douglas County Nebraska which I think is rather unique. The second largest, broken down by county, is from my home county where Curtis is at, the third largest number of graduates are from Lancaster County. So it is not an area technical school, it is a state technical school. It is technical in the area of production agriculture, veterinary technologies, horticulture, ag mechanics, ag economics, in the area of day-to-day operations of the farms and ranches and the related businesses in this state. The best way, I think, to describe it is that that school is in the business of injecting realism into agricultural education. I'll tell you there are a lot of folks that are wondering now why anybody would want to go into any agricultural program, at whatever level, be it a technical level or be it a four-year level. There is a lack of students in some of those programs. Well, I think most of us can understand why. But the sun will shine again. Things will be better again. We're going to need well-trained people to move us forward when the economy does get better and agriculture is once again back on its feet and the related service industries. That is the reason I think that school is important to the State of Nebraska. I would urge your adoption of this amendment to LR 313. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Haberman, did you wish to speak about the Vickers amendment, please?

SENATOR HABERMAN: Yes, Mr. President. Mr. President, members of the body, I do not favor the closing of Curtis, however, let's look at the other side of the coin. I'll play the devil's advocate for a few minutes. Although it may be created by statute it can be, if not closed, almost closed because by not appropriating funds it will, in itself, deteriorate. The university Board of Regents are looking at this from the other side of the coin at \$20,000 per head to maintain the school at Curtis. They are looking at there are overlaps of courses between Curtis and voc tech schools. Now when Curtis was created, and for many, many, many years we didn't have voc tech schools and Curtis was the only one that offered particular courses like ag mechanics, for example. You can pick up mechanic work at McCook or North Platte. Those voc tech schools have grown tremendously. Tom has indicated they have day-to-day