

financial resources that we make available to technical colleges without this coordination that I feel is needed. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Senator Nelson.

SENATOR NELSON: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, in the first place I want to thank Senator Smith for I guess, so to speak, handling my priority bill for me and I think that she did a very good job. It rather surprised me to get on the floor and find out that this bill was being taken up. I was across the street speaking to community colleges. I think Senator Smith has done a very good job going down through this bill. I want to respond to Senator Abboud. I believe though we are really on Howard's amendment, right. I want to respond to Senator Abboud. I don't think this bill affects his area. Metro asked to be excluded and I will tell you why. Metro did not need this tax. I don't think any of the colleges are going to levy additional tax money if it is not needed. The property taxpayer watches that very close. Metro's valuation has gone up from \$9,687,000,000 to \$12,682,000,000 so that will tell you which is the very essence of this bill, and that the colleges that are affected by the rural areas, I think the latest figures from the Tax Commissioner is valuations have gone down 13.4 percent and I will tell you actually they have gone down much more than that if you sell some farmland today. Overall the picture, the tax I think has gone down 13., excuse me, 3.3 percent for the whole state. This has to be by two-thirds of the board and I don't think I need to stand here and tell you the good and the need of the community colleges. Some states are offering, even able to offer incentives for community colleges to retrain workers. I don't think that we can cut the community colleges out if we expect to have new business come into our state. That is one of the big drawing cards in Iowa, the fact that they have the facilities there to retrain, and if a new business needs some of them. That was the case I think with Timpfe. And I also must mention to you the increased enrollment in community colleges. Take that into consideration. Not one of these colleges are asking for more money than is absolutely necessary. I don't know if Senator Smith mentioned some of the buildings in her area, some of the programs that have to be discontinued because of funding. Please look again at the budget cuts that my college has taken, terminated positions, cut programs, and this is not