

SENATOR NELSON: Just a few short words. I won't take any more time. I think we've spent enough time on this bill. I think that most of you realize, outside of the Omaha area, how bad this is needed. One other point...

PRESIDENT: The call of the house is raised. Excuse me, Senator.

SENATOR NELSON: ...in my own area we have been able to work with the community college on LPN nursing degrees. By our work over the summer, Senator Smith and myself, we chaired this. Now they are able to continue their courses on in LPN nursing. That's just as an example. Another...I know a concern of many of you is the fact of you think that they're going up to the maximum immediately. I will show you that in the past Southeast has been at .0565. Incidentally, they do anticipate to lose \$300,000, Southeast Community College. They're in problems now with Fairbury, and retaining the colleges in their area. Metro is not. Northeast has been up to .0508. They could have gone to seven. My college, Central, is up to seven. Mid-Plains which this law does not affect is .0716 and Western, of course, is over. So the average levy right now is .0597. So I think that is, so to speak, proof of the pudding. These colleges are responsible. They are not going out and, as Senator Hartnett says, "creepism". I don't like that and I will not vote for anything that's open-ended here, if it could be helped, and I don't call this a bill for open-ended funding. It's just simply for outstate Nebraska to survive and it...the community colleges, their enrollment is increasing monthly, and with that, I will close. And just think of it, the other colleges are not taking advantage of the increase and I don't expect it now and with the valuation decrease, there is just no other way we can go.

PRESIDENT: Thank you, Senator. May we have order please. (Gavel.) The motion is to advance LB 796 and Senator Haberman wanted to speak on the bill. All right, Senator Abboud. The speaking order is after Senator Abboud, is Senator Wesely, Vard Johnson, Lamb and Hall. Senator Abboud.

SENATOR ABOUD: Mr. President, colleagues, I would like to say from the onset right of this speech is that I understand Senator Smith and Senator Nelson's very deep concern with their community colleges and I don't in any way begrudge