

them and I think that philosophically they just have a different viewpoint on how we should go about funding education. My perspective is that if we're having some tough times out there, that's the time that you pull in the belt and business isn't as usual out in outstate Nebraska and I don't think that the public body should have business as usual. I think this Legislature showed that state government viewed the rural economy and the entire economy of the State of Nebraska not as business as usual when we had reductions in state government spending. Those reductions were tough on the University of Nebraska. I sat down this morning and had a nice chat with faculty from the UN-L faculty and they told me that it was tough when they had to take the 2 percent cut but that they understood that the State of Nebraska was going through some tough agricultural times and they asked that, if they didn't get an increase, they hoped that there wouldn't be a decrease. Well, we have a difference with this particular bill in that we're having business as usual. In spite of the fact that there is record numbers of bankruptcies of farmers in outstate Nebraska, in spite of the fact that there is record numbers of bankruptcies throughout the entire state, we're telling the people in outstate Nebraska that it's business as usual. We realize technical colleges are important. Well, I realize that cities are important. I realize that school districts are important, and by this particular bill, we're not saying that do away with tech colleges. If this bill does not pass, we're not saying in any way that the tech colleges are doing a bad job. They are doing a very outstanding job in the State of Nebraska. They provide an excellent educational opportunity for a number of Nebraskans throughout the state and it's my belief that we should have tech colleges in the State of Nebraska. Unfortunately, with record numbers of bankruptcies of farmers and with the foreboding Gramm-Rudman bill on the horizon with possible further reductions in the amount of money that is going to agriculture in the State of Nebraska, is this the type of message that we want to send out to people in outstate Nebraska? Let's return quickly to the fiscal note and maybe one of the principal sponsors of this bill can readdress this fiscal note. It affects, from what I understand, Southeast Community College, would give them an additional revenue raising ability of \$4,986,000. Central, \$4.8 million approximately. The Northeast has an additional \$2,400,000 additional money. So we're talking about a lot of money here and we're saying to the people back in the