

the fiscal note. There is not one technical school in this state today that's even close to the 4.2 percent overlevy allowed, not one. Not Senator Nichol's favorite out in Scottsbluff, not Senator Nelson's favorite in Grand Island, not Senator Smith's favorite in Hastings, they aren't even there. They aren't even there. So what do they do? They get these senators to come in with a bill that allows that overlevy to go from 4.2 percent to 5 percent when they haven't even yet got close to the 4.2 percent needed. They haven't even gotten close to it. Now, I'll tell you what happens. When people have the authority to go to a higher amount, administrators can ultimately persuade them to do that, those votes can be found, and spending can easily follow the revenue. Many of us in this Legislature have been very cognizant of the rapid growth of our vocational technical schools. We've been very cognizant of the brick and mortar programs they have done. We have been very cognizant of their appearance throughout the State of Nebraska. We have continued to say to ourselves, when will it stop? How can we get all postsecondary education adequately coordinated? And we are concerned about it. I'm concerned about it. Senator Lamb is absolutely correct. Probably, the State of Nebraska should simply fund the vocational technical schools and they should be part of our overall postsecondary education system, but we have chosen not yet to do that. But what we are doing is we are giving those voc tech schools more taxing authority than their figures currently demonstrate they even come close to needing, they even come close to needing, and it is wrong to do that. And I can guarantee you that if this bill had been before the Revenue Committee, it would not have happened because the committee says, you got to prove up totally and absolutely on need before we're going to allow you to increase your mill levy limits. I think Senator Hall is aware of that in connection with the MAT bill he brought into the Revenue Committee, but to go for an overlevy allowance of 5 percent when the current law allows an overlevy of 4.2 mills, when the highest overlevy right now is about 2 mills, 2.1 mills, is "greedyism". It's simply "greedyism". And as long as this bill is going to be kept in that form where this body cedes total property tax authority to those voc tech schools, this bill ought to be killed.

PRESIDENT: The Chair would like to announce that Senator Baack has guests in the north balcony that have come a long