

foggiest idea what's happening to rural Nebraska. You haven't the foggiest idea. If you think that valuations are lowering now, if you think we've got business as usual out there, then you must be living in fantasyland. I'll tell you, if we can't at least continue to stay even, and I'll tell you, Senator Johnson, go back out and talk to somebody from Metro Tech, or from Western. They've laid off people already. They've "riffed" folks already. They are closing programs right now and do you know why they're doing it? Because with the projected valuations for next year, they're going to be at 11.2, they're going to be at 11.2. Now if somehow you can make the value of land out there bottom out and start coming back, then I'll vote for your kill motion, then I'll vote for your kill motion. But otherwise, if you're going to tell us because our valuations are dropping, that we've got to just totally dismantle our educational system, and I'll tell Senator Wesely, if you can tell me that economic development doesn't take place at the university because it's academic programs and, therefore, it doesn't take place out there at community colleges because they have some academic programs as well, then I'll eat your hat because education at all levels, academic as well as vocational, are economic development. And I think there are those people who would say we shouldn't have any community colleges in McCook, we shouldn't have any academic programs at North Platte, we shouldn't have any academic programs at Scottsbluff or anywhere else out there, we'd all ought to have to come to Lincoln, Nebraska, and go to the university. Well, not everybody can afford to travel and come to the University of Nebraska. It might surprise you to hear that, but it is true. But I'll tell you, if you think that valuations dropping had ought to still leave the levy limits the same, then I'm sure going to watch all the bills that deal with the Omaha area. As a matter of fact, I wish it was not too late for bill introduction because I'd sure introduce one to do away with your sales tax. I'd sure introduce one to take away any funds that we might send to you for MAT. I'd sure introduce bill to take away your ability to keep your levies where they're at up there. Just because your valuations aren't lowering, just because the value of your house isn't one-fourth or about one-third what it was two years ago, you don't understand the problem. You simply don't understand the problem. And when Senator Abboud stands up and says business as usual out there, then I'd invite him to come out to our place. I'd invite him to go to any of the tech schools out there if he thinks it's