

PRESIDENT: Senator Abboud.

SENATOR ABOUD: Mr. President, colleagues, I offer the motion today to kill LB 802 because I think it symbolizes the problems that we have been having with higher education in the State of Nebraska. It does two things that I think are wrong. The first one is that it symbolizes the fact that we haven't looked at the entire scope of higher education in the State of Nebraska. Yesterday we discussed a bill of importance, a constitutional amendment to allow the regents in the State of Nebraska to be appointed. Now, this bill, LR 32, discussed how it would be beneficial for the citizens of the State of Nebraska to have appointed regents. And in handouts that were distributed to the members of the committee, or members of the Legislature, it noted how we would have improved effectiveness, how we would have better decisions being made because of the appointed regents, how they would be more future oriented and emphasize the statewide concerns in the State of Nebraska. In fact, they went on to say that we would have increased emphasis on the people making the tough decisions. Well, what we have in the State of Nebraska at this time is a large number of people that haven't been making the tough decisions with higher education. Higher education has continued to take more and more costs of the State of Nebraska, more and more taxpayers' dollars and less emphasis on what the real needs of the students in the State of Nebraska are. Now, in legislation that we had earlier dealing with tech colleges, it was noted about the amount of money that we presently do spend on state colleges...or tech colleges. The figure was close to 25 million to \$26 million that the State of Nebraska...in the State of Nebraska that we do spend on technical community colleges. Now, this particular bill is of concern to me because it affects constituents in my district. It affects my technical community college, Metropolitan Technical Community College. So that is why I have a strong concern with this piece of legislation and its potential impact on the residents that live within this technical community college district. Now, presently in my technical community college we spend approximately...see if I can get the figures here, oh, approximately 5 to \$6 million on technical community colleges in Douglas County. Now, this is paid by the property taxpayers in Douglas County and in surrounding counties of the metropolitan area. Now, it is not a big