

think that it is very obvious that they have been very responsible through the years. If you look at the sheet that Senator Nelson passed out on the floor, you have a ten year history of the percentage of total property taxes that were collected from Fiscal Year 1976 and '77 through to '86. You will see a percent of the increase only from 1.86 of a percent to 2.52 percent for an average overall in 2.33 percent increase or, excuse me, tax levied. So they have been responsible. They do respond to the needs of the community only based on their needs and the boards do not spend this money indiscriminately. A few other points that I would like to raise as far as Central Community College is concerned. Their enrollments continue to increase there, and this year they are already 400 ahead of last year. The current state of the economy has brought about an increased demand of their services from farmers. The third reason is that even though the Consumer Price Index has indicated a modest inflation rate, they have experienced a 9.5 percent increase in utility rates over the past two years. They are now looking at a 25 percent increase in liability insurance. The Hastings campus itself is on the old ammunition depot and this requires continuing maintenance and repair, and I have already told you once before about the fact that when I visited the college it happened to be raining that day. Students were in classrooms where water was dripping down through the ceiling into pails. So I don't think when we talk about business as usual or squandering taxpayers dollars that you can say this is happening there. Another point that I would like to bring out is the fact that when we talk about dollars that they are spending, at the national level a policy change in Washington has caused a reduction in the federal vocational reimbursement of \$138,000. At the state level with the way in which state aid is distributed and the impact of LB 1, Central Community College is receiving more than \$300,000 fewer state aid dollars than they did in 1983-84. Even if you go along with the Governor's budget recommendation, the net result for the Central Community College will be a loss of at least an additional 50,000 because of the reallocation criteria in the formula. At the local level, the adjustment in property valuations under LB 271 means that they will have to decrease an available property tax revenue of over \$350,000. This is coupled with tax delinquencies that continue to increase and, again, they have no control over their utility rates and all the other costs of continuing to operate. I ask you to consider those colleges that are at the limit,