

that as well as anybody. I am one of those people having a heck of a time paying my property taxes, but, Senator Peterson, when his local schools and local political subdivisions, including the counties, are willing to start looking at some things such as the structure of their system and the programs that they provide, then I will agree with you that maybe then the local people will be ready to start doing something about property taxes. It has been my experience that the big problems with the property taxes are because of the cost at the local school district level, not the tech schools. Let me talk a little bit about what I think we need to do in higher education. I think we need to recognize a couple of things. First of all, the traditional student has changed. The traditional student is not going to go to Senator Lundy's Kearney State. The traditional student is not going to go to the University of Nebraska in Lincoln or Omaha, or Creighton, or Wesleyan, or most any other four year institution. The traditional student is in the job market, but because of changes in technology, they are having to get additional training. The tech schools are the ones that do that. Now, admittedly, such institutions as the ones I named, Kearney State, for example, does offer outreach programs through some of the community colleges, and thank goodness they do, but if we don't give them more funds, Senator Lundy, that is going to be one of the first programs cut. Now whether or not we are going to give them more of those funds, my guess is along with you, I don't know whether we can find them or not. I agree that we are not at a time when it is business as usual. But I will tell you the tech schools are reducing. There have been a number of people who have been rified in the Western Tech School area. They have cut back on programs. Central has reduced their budget \$400,000. Now they are in the process of cutting back at the same time that we are asking them to do more in the area of economic development. Now I will submit to you that there comes a time as a businessman, whatever business you are in, that you can cut the operations of your business to a certain point, and then there is a point when you continue to cut that you are going to damage the ability of your business to produce. In other words, I can trim as much of the fat as I can out of my own business, but when I have to start selling those old cows that actually produce the income for me, I am doing myself a disfavor. I am not going to be able to survive as a business when that starts happening. It seems to me the same thing is true with our tech schools right now. If we don't want to work our way