

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Peterson, please.

SENATOR PETERSON: Mr. President and members, I think this is a good amendment. We're going to run it and see what happens, but what this amendment would do, before a tech school across the state could raise their levy, they would have to take it to the vote of the people. I think that would be the most fair thing to do as to let the people themselves in that, like in northeast Nebraska, that whoever is involved in that 22 county area, they take a vote of the people and let them vote on it whether they thought they could raise their levy and to what, and let it be discussed, and if they said, no, they couldn't raise their levy, and if they said, yes, they could go ahead. I think this is fair. I ask for your adoption of this amendment.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Does anyone...I have a whole bunch of lights on. I want to know if anyone would speak on the Peterson amendment. Okay, Senator Vickers.

SENATOR VICKERS: Well, Mr. President and members, I rise to oppose the Peterson amendment. I want to tell you, first of all, that if we did that process on our budgetary operations here, it would certainly affect what we can or cannot do. I think you all know that. Secondly, if you want to add to the cost, if you want to add to the cost of education in this state and still not provide one solitary service to any student anywhere, then adopt the Peterson amendment. If you think an election can be operated without a tremendous cost, then I think you are not really seriously interested in providing any services to anybody in education. I think the Peterson amendment had ought to be rejected. I think we had ought to, first of all, recognize that the people who are making these decisions are elected officials as are we. They are elected by those people that are out there paying their property taxes. I suspect that if we don't trust those folks, then I suppose that the logical thing is for us to take over control of it totally ourselves. If that is what you want to do, then sobeit, but recognize what you are doing while you are doing it, recognize the cost involved while you are doing it, but most importantly, recognize the effects of local people on what program is offered to them. Now we...economic development, I want to repeat, has been a buzz word of everybody in this session. We want to encourage as much economic development as possible. Well,