

as a result of my concerns and those of others of you on the floor who are quite concerned about excessive levying authorization, I did meet yesterday afternoon with one of the bill's sponsors, Senator Tom Vickers, and with one of the representatives of the vocational community colleges, Charlie Noren, and I worked out very carefully what I believe to be appropriate increases to the levying authority of the vocational community colleges. The issue is a very simple issue and that is that two vocational community colleges today are very close to their current levy limit and that is the Central Community College out of Grand Island and the Mid-Plains Community College out at North Platte. In addition, one community college, Western, out of Scottsbluff, is very close to its super levy authorization. The fears which the community college systems have is very simple. They believe that valuation declines resulting from the ag land amendment and also resulting from basic farm and ranch land valuations declines will cause them or force them, compel them, literally, to have to exceed their mill levy authorizations to maintain current offerings intact. So what I have done is I have simply put together an amendment which gives the community colleges that are close to their levy limits a little breathing space and gives us four years, in effect, to get our collective act together as to how we're going to structure postsecondary education. My amendment is simple. It would increase the base levy authorization from seven cents per \$100 of valuation to nine cents per \$100 of valuation and that's applicable to every community college in Nebraska whether it be Metro, whether it be Central, whether it be Western, whether it be Mid-Plains, whether it be Southeast, makes no difference. It's applicable across the board and, secondly, with respect to the super levy authorization which currently authorizes a combined levy of the ordinary seven cents plus a super levy of 4.2 cents, the super levy authorization would, when in place, authorize to a combined levy of 11.5 cents. So it is really only .3 of a cent increase. In addition, as you know, the current levy law sunsets in 1988 and yesterday a floor amendment caused the sunset to be extended to 1992. This rolls the sunset back to 1990. Now, I think we need to commit the next two years in this Legislature to a thorough, conscientious, careful study of role and mission in postsecondary education, structure in postsecondary education and finance in postsecondary education. I think that once we have used two years, and it will take two years for that kind of a comprehensive detailed thoughtful