

SENATOR NELSON: Yes, to Senator Johnson, how's come he now is including Metro in this?

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: The question is, why does Senator Johnson include Metro Tech in increasing the current levy authorization of seven cents per \$100 to nine cents per \$100? And the answer is, that the attorneys for the vocational community college system believe that the failure to include Metro Tech in the base authorization will result in an unconstitutional tax levy for Central Community College, Mid-Plains Community College and others. It is not my desire, in all candor, to fatten the next of the administrators and the board at Metro Tech, but it is my desire to pass constitutional legislation so that the Central Community College system will not find its mill levy in court and attacked and the same is true for Mid-Plains and the same is true for Western. I spent an hour yesterday afternoon debating the constitutionality issue and ended up concluding in my own mind that, yes, I would have to include Metro in that situation.

SENATOR NELSON: I think, Senator Johnson's on my time. In the...excuse me. In the bill we had a population clause before, 150,000 population, so I wonder why the same basis would not apply right now, the same theory. I'm not an attorney, but I wondered that question.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: The answer is that the 150,000 population clause was in the over levy, not in the base levy, the over levy.

SENATOR NELSON: Thank you.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Thank you. May I introduce a special guest we have in the top of the north balcony, if you'd direct your attention up there. We have Mr. Abe Lopez. Would you please stand up. Mr. Lopez is the father of the young man sitting next to me. We appreciate your son being a Page in our Legislature this year and we appreciate your being here this morning. Thank you, Mr. Lopez. Senator Abboud, please.

SENATOR ABOUD: Mr. President, colleagues, I'm really torn on this amendment of Senator Johnson's. I think it has a couple of sections in that are very, very good and one section that I do have the problems with dealing with the