

concept is one whose time has come in this state. There is a recent draft report that is soon to be published, out of Omaha, in the next month or so. The first item listed in terms of vocational disadvantages in Omaha is the following, the absence of an academic base to support commercialization research in most new technological fields. We are finding more and more that we are moving into an information age, an age in which technology is king, and we have not provided for that transition. We have left ourselves back in terms of not developing that research function at the university. We have not taken those entrepreneurs around the state that have got good ideas but need that assistance to develop those ideas into commercially viable businesses. We've let them make it on their own, and we haven't provided the assistance that we should, and we are changing that. We are changing that with other programs, we're changing it with LB 850. It is time for that change to occur. It is not one that is going to happen overnight, as Senator Morehead said. There is now talk of cutting the 2 million down to 1 million. I tend to think that there is far more than \$2 million worth of research projects out there. I'm thinking in terms of the research that has already been talked about in a number of areas, optics technology is one. Senator Morehead and I, and some other senators, have a bill, LB 964, to put in a couple of million dollars into optics research at the university. Those people are ready to move to be a leader in this nation in terms of optics technology. They are ready to move, but they need resources to get the job done. Right there you have some ideas that need to be developed, and this authority can provide that assistance. You have also other educational information activities, Senator Scofield is going to be talking about those, coming out, video disc activity, and on, and on. This state has got the know-how, the ability, the research capability of being an outstanding center in a number of areas in the nation and in the world. We just haven't tapped that resource. We haven't developed it, and nurtured it, and helped it as we should. That means some investment of money, but it also means some leadership. This technology authority, this research and development authority can provide that leadership. The caveats, I guess, the concerns I would have in terms of the bill, would just generally be in terms of drafting, not the function, not the goal, but the questions about how we've drafted the bill, the broadness of the bill, and some concerns about that. Also, certainly 964 and the optics technology issue