

voting yes.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Record, Mr. Clerk, please.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays on adoption of the committee amendments, Mr. President.

SPEAKER NICHOL: The committee amendments are adopted. Senator Vickers, back to the bill.

SENATOR VICKERS: Mr. President, the bill I think was pretty well explained in my explanation of the committee amendments but I would like to explain it just a little bit further. There has been a considerable amount of concern by the...

SPEAKER NICHOL: The call is raised.

SENATOR VICKERS: ...members of this Legislature and others about the large amounts of money that we spend in higher education in the State of Nebraska and we do spend a considerable amount of our budget. A considerable percentage of our state budget goes for higher education plus we, obviously, have some property tax monies as well that goes to higher education in the tech school areas. There has been a growing concern, I have sensed, that we need to have some ability to take a picture of what we have in terms of higher education in the State of Nebraska in general and then some means to project what we want to have into the future. And I guess I view this particular bill as...and I know it is an overworked term, particularly it is overworked in this session, but I really believe that it does have something to do with the economic development of the State of Nebraska. I have made the arguments that the Silicon Valley in California didn't happen because of the nice weather around Palo Alto. It happened because there had been some specific plans and directions set forth by Stanford University and others in that area to develop some programs in some areas to help the economic development of a certain industry. It seems to me that we could use those same kinds of goals or same kinds of mechanisms to help bring that about in higher education. We do, I think, need that ability considering the amount of funds that we spend to plan collectively, and that is a large part of 1172. Also, we need the ability to plan as to the specific needs of what we have right now. Now, I want to also explain to you the way I view the process working. It seems to me that