

indicated earlier, the largest percentage, or the largest number, broken down by counties, is from Douglas County, which indicates that it serves a statewide purpose. The purpose of the amendment that I raised earlier, and this one, and another one that is coming up, I think this body had ought to start asking ourselves what are going to be the result of our actions in terms of our budgetary decisions. Now if you want to start eliminating some of those opportunities for young people, if it is all right with you to begin to dismantle a higher education system that I think is tied to economic development, I don't know how you can expect the state to proceed into the twenty-first century and at the same time begin to dismantle and eliminate the opportunities for our citizens to be educated in the needs of the twenty-first century, but if that is the will of the body then so be it. But I'm going to continue, every step of the way on this appropriations process, to raise that issue. Just as each of us have to do, and I understand the economic distress probably as well as anybody in this body, but as each of us have to do in our own lives, our own businesses, we have to look at the results of our actions in terms of how we spend or don't spend our resources. If the result of those actions are going to be negative down the road then we try very hard to find the resources to invest in those particular areas. It seems to me that that is what we ought to be doing as a state. It seems to me that we ought to be saying there are certain things we're going to need in order to pull ourselves back out of this economic distress. And one of those things are going to be such things as the technical training of people involved in the business...biggest business in the State of Nebraska, that of agriculture. That is the issue. If you agree with me that that is an asset, if you agree with me that we ought to have that program in place, and I remind you those...none of those programs, none of the programs offered at Curtis showed up on the program review mechanism that red flags programs based on the usage or the need, none of those programs showed up, so we are about to eliminate those programs based only on political expediency, not on the need or the usage. I think that is the wrong way to do it. I ask for the adoption of the amendment.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Thank you, Senator Vickers. Senator Vickers was closing. Senator Lamb. Thank you. The question is, shall the Vickers amendment be adopted? All those in favor vote aye, those opposed vote no. Have you