

not going to be denied this most essential experience and training that we can offer them here in Nebraska. So I would, as Senator Chronister is, I would encourage the adoption of this amendment and the advancement of the bill to Select File. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Senator Pappas.

SENATOR PAPPAS: Mr. President and colleagues, I rise to oppose Senator Chronister's amendment and, basically, if we look at actually what we are doing, there has been bills the last two or three, four years talking about giving money or having money available for loans for students in private colleges, which I guess you might say that could be good. I want to watch and see what the Speaker is writing on my paper for a minute. But, okay, you look at exactly the intent, we have decreased the funding of the Postsecondary Commission which the intent of that was to study what our postsecondary education system will be doing now, in the past and in the future. College enrollment has been declining, has been declining the last several years. Projections is that it is going down further. They are getting more of a competitive battle between universities and colleges for students and student enrollments. I am quite sure everybody is aware that there has been rumors going around for a while and people talking, you know, maybe we ought to close Peru up, close the school at Peru. And then we have people talking this morning we need to encourage the independents to grow, to flourish, to exist, and at the same time we talk about cutting the University of Nebraska's budget, the state college budgets. You have got a hundred letters so far indicating that we need to increase Kearney State's budget up higher than what it is but at the same time we have people standing up here and saying, gosh, we need to make the independence grow and flourish and exist, you know, because we need them. But some of the same people probably would not vote for a tax increase, as Senator Landis talked about a minute ago, that this could possibly mean it is a big enough appropriation item that we are going to have to increase taxes and if we increase taxes, who is going to vote for it? And at the same time are we going to increase taxes enough to refund the postsecondary education system? I doubt it. Are we going to increase the appropriation to state colleges? I doubt that too. But on the other hand, what we are doing, we are encouraging independent colleges to keep growing, which they should but they should do it on their own. The people that opt to go to an independent college do that because they feel that they either can get a better education or for