

would be very short-sighted of us to not provide the funds to not keep that particular institution or that type of training available. I think these issues have been discussed much in the past, and I don't think it is necessary to go into a great explanation of the importance of that institution. But I would like to just stress a couple of things, and that is, number one, that there is a lot of potential for cooperative programs in the future with a number of other institutions, the state colleges and the tech schools. But, number two, it is a statewide institution. Two-thirds of its graduates come from the eastern third of the state. And I think that that speaks for itself in terms of the importance to the State of Nebraska. So, with that brief explanation, I would like to ask for the adoption of this amendment to LB 1251, Mr. President.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Is there any other discussion on Senator Vickers' amendment? Senator Sieck.

SENATOR SIECK: Mr. President, members of the body, I, too, support this amendment. As I understand this amendment is for the transition program. Correct? It's for the Curtis college. Okay. I also support that. Last Thursday I did not support it because I felt that the University was going to continue funding the Curtis schools. As I heard over the weekend the feeling is now that we can do away with the college. And I feel they are in error. We have a lot of people who are going into this transition, as we are well aware of, and they need this to learn the different technical feasibilities in the field of agriculture. I feel it is very important that we continue the school out at Curtis. So I support the amendment.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Thank you. Senator Warner, please.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, the...as I understand the situation at Curtis, while there was some press stories, last week, reflecting a recommendation of a campus committee as to how the University should absorb the permanent reductions in their budget by virtue of LB 1 of the special session, and those press stories indicated that committee was suggesting to close the Curtis institution, what I understand in fact the Regents are talking about is not the closing of the school but of the \$30 million of General Fund money currently appropriated to the institution 1 million of it would be utilized for the operation of the Curtis school. And then there was to be 245,000 of the current million two plus thousand that operates the school reduced, which were five