

positions as I recall. And that the additional courses that would not be offered there would be provided through a community college, such as Central or Mid Plains, and I believe with the student attending the institutions at those locations, although there may be some cooperative programs on either campus. But the question is whether or not you want to add 245,000 to the fully...fully staff and fully continue the Curtis operation as it is, or recognize that what the Regents are proposing, which is some cooperative programs with the community colleges as the better course. Appropriations Committee has taken the position, virtually without exception, that those cuts that were previously made were meant to be permanent cuts at every agency, all agencies, including those in which there were not specific programs authorized to be cut, but where the agency chose to make the reduction that that reduction in fact was to take place. So we are faced with the kind of questions that we'll probably be dealing with the rest of the session, until budgets are set. If you want to curb the cost why you eliminate some worthy programs. In fact you are going to need to eliminate a whole bunch, or else you adjust tax rates to provide the revenue so you do not need to make wholesale elimination of programs. But, in any event, this specific amendment, the recommendation of the majority of the Appropriations Committee, is that none of those cuts made in either the special or the regular session, last year, should be reinstated, that they should be considered permanent cuts, however the agency decided to do it.

SPEAKER NICHOL PRESIDING

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Rod Johnson, please.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I rise to support Senator Vickers and his motion. I think the first thing that I'm reminded of is a statement that Senator Cal Carsten told me, oh it's been about a month or so ago, as we were sitting late one afternoon, discussing some of the action the Legislature had been taking on issues. And he said to me something that I have now since filed in the back of my mind that I will carry with me as long as I'm a legislator. He said the key, I feel, as being a member for the last two years of the Appropriations Committee is that we provide the best type of possible education system in the state and for the health of our citizens. Those are the two priorities that he once explained to me were important to him. I guess I would have to conclude that those are sound principles, and those are some of the principles, I guess, that I have taken from him in this