

particular budget battle. I think that what Senator Vickers is trying to do is to provide education to a group of students in the State of Nebraska that like attending the school at Curtis. If it costs a little extra I think most people would agree that it is a worthwhile proposal and would pay for it. But we are going through a very difficult budgetary time and we are having to make selections or priorities. And I guess I've come of the conclusion that my priorities are going to be in the areas of education and in securing the health of our citizens. So, along those lines, I'm going to continue to vote to provide for the school at Curtis, and probably some other educational programs that will be controversial. But I think it is in the best interest of our state and our students.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Vickers, would you like to close on your motion, please.

SENATOR VICKERS: Mr. President, members, just so there is no misunderstanding, I would like to clarify a couple of things. First of all, this is \$245,000 of new money. It is not a reallocation of funds, it is not taking money away from any other area of higher education or government, it is new money. Now, I probably ought not to be so honest and forward with you because I know that is going to be a problem for some of you. Secondly, in order to clarify what Senator Warner said, I would like for you to know that this is still even at the level of 1,245,000, now the 1 million is money that is already in the appropriations, it is for IANR, but even at that level, at \$1,245,000, it is still a 10 percent reduction from the funds that they had last year. Now it is not like those people at Curtis, Nebraska do not understand the current economic conditions. It is not like they are not willing to make their share of budget cuts as well. And it is not like they are not willing to eliminate some positions because they are going to, they are going to have to, they don't have any choice. But I'll tell you, when you live in Curtis, Nebraska, you understand that. When you live out in the part of the world that I live in, you know there is an economic crunch going on. But I guess you also ask yourself simply because we are having all these economic difficulties are we some how second class citizens? Is the fact that agriculture is having all these problems, is that a good enough reason to totally do away with a facility that trains people, that 93 percent of them stay in this state, work in this state in that industry? That industry will survive, some of us that are part of it now may not, but the industry, itself, will. And it is still going to be the number one