

that wishes to speak to the first part of the division of the question? Senator Scofield, please.

SENATOR SCOFIELD: Thank you, Mr. President and members. I had originally thought I would address both issues as they were originally framed by the committee. But for now I'm going to rise in support of the committee's recommendation for the operations portion of this budget. As Senator Warner has already pointed out, we are faced with some very difficult choices in this session. It is a particularly wrenching time for all of us. And being aware of the kinds of trends we face, I think we have an opportunity here to make some very positive choices, or on the other hand head the state in a direction that is not healthy for the future. So I want to talk about Nebraska's future and how I believe our recommendations move us in a positive direction. First let me talk briefly about the trends that we have addressed in the committee this session. One, the assumption is that the federal cuts will continue to come, regardless of whether they are Gramm-Rudman or something else, and that we need to be prepared for those kinds of cuts. Two, the assumption is that our economy is undergoing major change, that we are truly part of a global economy that requires a better educated populace, more than ever before, not just those traditional age groups, but even now those adults who are going back to school for retraining, professional update, or outright career switches. And that is happening at all age levels and all career levels. Thirdly, a trend that we must be continually aware of that was made clear this morning, was Senator Smith's handout on her bill, we have an aging population. The major demand of an aging population is increasing health care. That is the rationale that the committee has pursued most of the session as far as what kinds of things should we place the priority on. And that explains the rationale for those items within the committee's recommendation for budget overrides. I believe Senator Warner has adequately explained each of those items and how they relate either to education or health care. But I would like to comment just a little bit about what I think this means to Nebraska's future, and I would begin that by looking at Nebraska's past. A number of communities in my district are celebrating their centennial this year. I know from the number of motions up there that the rest of you are too. We, in Nebraska, have a strong sense of our history. I think we have a strong appreciation for those people who went before us and built our towns, and our schools, and our cities, and who essentially left us in the position that we are in, in a state today. We stand