

the north balcony. There are 23 fourth graders from Williams Elementary School in Columbus accompanied by their teacher. We welcome you to the Legislature. If you'll stand up, please, we'd like to thank you for coming down to see us. I have a series of names up here that may or may not apply to this particular issue, but I'll recognize them in order. First is Senator Nelson.

SENATOR NELSON: Mr. President, members of the body, I, too, hope that you see fit to vote for the override on this the same. I never made an issue of it when we were discussing LB 796, but our community colleges are facing the same court of industrial relations. And I think back a few days ago we were talking about a 3 percent raise in salary for the state colleges, and over 4 percent and some on the university. And our colleges...in my own college, if they have to absorb that along with this loss, we are talking about between 700 and 800 thousand dollars. And that in essence either just about decimates the college, or in turn it is not there to retrain people for jobs or a new industry that comes in the state. That is one of the very first things that they ask for. I'm not going to stand here and make a long speech out of this. It is something that will simply have to go back partially onto the local property taxpayer. And I think it is the same rationale as all of the rest of these, which pocket does it come out of. Again the community colleges are suffering just as much as any of the others. My own college cut out 15 positions the other day and programs, some of these that they have offered maybe for 20 years. So they are watching their budgets. And that is all I'll say on it.

PRESIDENT: Senator Vard Johnson, do you wish to speak on this issue?

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I have yet to speak on the veto overrides. I've had my light on but the question keeps getting called prior to speaking. I think the veto overrides are difficult to do. I suspect each one of you have felt the same way as you've gone ahead and done them. But sometimes it is important for us to really be very careful as to what items we are going to fund, and why we are going to fund them. We need to know exactly what our rationale is. It is one thing to support an override of \$3.8 million for aid to education knowing that the Nebraska Constitution makes our primary legislative responsibility the support of common education for the children of our state, and another thing to