

SENATOR DECAMP: Mr. President, I'd call the question.

SPEAKER NICHOL: We have an amendment to the amendment first, I'm afraid. So we'll switch horses here. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Vickers would move to amend the Appropriations Committee amendment. First of all in the purpose section, insert "and to reduce the cut to technical community colleges of 3 percent to 2 percent and in the amendment following the restoration to UNMC, insert Agency 83 Program 51, increase General Fund appropriation by \$231,411."

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Vickers, please.

SENATOR VICKERS: Mr. President, members, I recognize it's not too easy to add monies back into the budget that the Appropriations Committee has not already endorsed, but it seems to me that listening to the discussion this morning, listening to the discussion this afternoon that it's pretty obvious that there is a good number of members of this body that do have some concern about higher education. There is a good number of members of this body that think that higher education had ought to be treated a little differently than perhaps we're treating some other agencies of government and I don't disagree with that. I don't disagree with that, but it seems to me that we'd ought to at least raise that level of discussion to the fact that we are recognizing that higher education is not necessarily limited to Lincoln, Omaha or the four state colleges. You know, somebody mentioned this morning about how higher education had helped bring the Saturn plant to Tennessee. Well, I would suggest to you that the Saturn plant didn't go to Tennessee because of the University of Tennessee, but instead it went to Tennessee because of their ability to train people to be in the work force in that Saturn plant. Now if we're going to be increasing the budget, that is increasing the cut, this is difficult to say, not cut quite so deep in higher education, then I would suggest to you that we'd ought not to cut quite so deep in all of higher education and that those people who are dependent on that community college system, they're not up in the balconies, they're not down here talking to us and you know why they're not? Because most of those people have got a job. That's the reason they have to use the community college system, because they're