

tied down to where they are at. They are not the traditional, generally the traditional age college student, but they are just as important. And if you want to talk about economic development, if you want to talk about the ability to bring ourselves out of this problem, then you can't ignore those people. You can't ignore the needs of the technical community colleges. I would argue that if we're going to be serious and that we are going to set our priorities as we probably should set them and say that education is important and, therefore, we're not going to cut as deep and we're going to use that as a way to provide economic development and hopefully bring some income into this state which, as Senator Schmit pointed out to you a little bit ago, is not going to happen until we get some income in agriculture quite frankly, it's not going to get us out of these problems, that we have got to recognize the worth and the ability of the community colleges to help bring us out of that. Now, that's not to say that I've got anything against the state colleges or the University system. It's not to say that I think that those people who get a degree, a higher degree are not going to provide economic development as well. That's true. But obviously those plants that we hope we can bring in here are not going to fill their production lines fully with people that have a BS or a BA and some other degree. They need people who are trained to work on those production lines and that's what community colleges are good at doing. I would urge this body to consider that. Now, having said all that, and recognizing that somebody was going to call the question, I wasn't going to get a chance to make this discussion until I got to the end of that long line of amendments that are up there, I also recognize there is some, and I'm sure Senator Warner or somebody from the Appropriations Committee is going to point out that this is not the correct place for this amendment and it's probably true. So with that in mind, I will ask, Mr. President, to withdraw this amendment, but you can be assured that there is another amendment up there to do this same thing and I, in the end, am not going to vote for any bill, be it LB 1 or any other bill, that treats higher education differently. Thank you, Mr. President. I would ask to withdraw the amendment.

SPEAKER NICHOL: The amendment is withdrawn. We were at the situation where we were ceasing debate. Do I see five hands? I do. The question is, shall debate cease on the Warner amendment? All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay.