

SENATOR WESELY: Yes, on a point of information, Mr. Speaker. We have a resolution that is going to be distributed right now for all of you to sign. As many of you probably know Internorth's board has announced this morning that they are going to stay in Nebraska. We were going to prepare a resolution to encourage that action, but they've already made that decision. So I think it appropriate and timely that this body, and hopefully all of you will sign this resolution, thanking them for that effort and pledging our cooperation with them. This is a major positive bit of news that we were all very worried about. So I think for your information, number one, they are staying; and, number two, Mr. Willis Strauss is the new chairman of the board and this is a very positive thing for our state to have this action taken. So I think it would be appropriate for us now to show that through this resolution. That is the point of information I'd like to share with you.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Withem.

SENATOR WITHEM: Mr. President, members of the body, in follow-up to what Senator Wesely just said, I think an excellent gesture now at this point would be to adopt this amendment so that Internorth's property taxes could be decreased somewhat along with all of the other members of the body. For that reason I am asking you to approve this amendment. Seriously, what we are proposing here is that education be treated basically the same by this body. A week or so ago we passed an amendment to the budget bill which decreased the cut to the University to two percent. Originally we had a three percent cut to all subdivisions of government and to the University of Nebraska, and to the state colleges. The other day we adopted an amendment which would have changed that cut in higher education from a three percent cut to a two percent cut. What Senators Hartnett, Chizek and I are proposing is that we treat secondary and elementary education on the same basis as we do the universities. It has also been pointed out to me since we filed this resolution that we have already accomplished a one percent cut, basically, to the schools by eliminating any funds going to drivers education. So if the budget bill passes in its current form we have, in effect, done a four percent cut to education as opposed to a three percent cut that had already been proposed. What we tend to do here in this body is we tend to, when things get tough and things