

is many times a deciding factor as to whether or not they locate in a certain location. I suggested to you last week and I will suggest it again that the reason Tennessee got the Saturn plant largely is because of their ability to have an educated work force in the area of a vocational training that that plant might need. So the amendment that I am offering to you would be an amendment to treat the community colleges, the tech schools, in the same fashion that we are treating the state colleges and the University. Now I recognized that the tech schools do have the ability to go to the property taxes so that instead of a 1 percent differential between 3 percent and 2 percent is only .75 giving that recognition of their ability to go to the property taxes. But I also would have to say that, I think Senator Schmit made the point last week, that once the University of Nebraska and the state colleges get the budget in the fashion that they deem they can live with it, then the budget is set and that has been proven today. Now I disagree with that. I am not sure that it ought to be the University of Nebraska pulling the strings of the Nebraska Legislature as far as the budget is concerned but to some degree that is the fact and it has happened and it is continuing to happen. Now I, for one, am not going to agree to that process. I didn't vote for those amendments last week because I thought that was exactly what was going to happen, but they passed anyhow. We are not as a body willing to concede and recognize that because the balconies don't get filled up with people from the community colleges that we are going to treat them the same, but they can't fill up with people from those community colleges because those folks are in the work force. For the large part, most of them have a job during the day. They are trying to better their education at night or at odd hours and they are trying to do it so that they can be more productive members of society and in the end pay more taxes and all those other things. But because we don't value that system quite as great, because we value the University system greater, we don't treat them the same. Now I think it is disgraceful and I, for one, am not going to be a part of it. Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask you how much time I have left on my opening remarks.

SPEAKER NICHOL: You have four minutes, a little over four minutes.

SENATOR VICKERS: Well, I would like to give about three or