

SENATOR CARSTEN: The question has been called for. Do I see five hands? One, two, three, four, five. Yes, I do see five hands. The question is, shall debate cease? All those in favor vote aye, those opposed vote no. The question is, shall debate cease? Have you all voted? Have you all voted? Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 24 ayes, 4 nays to cease debate, Mr. President.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Debate has not ceased. Senator Nichol, Senator Smith is before you yet. Do you want to speak or are you...just want to close? Okay. Senator Smith, please.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to stand one more time and say irregardless of politics, irregardless of all the things that are being said here, the issue still remains that we have to take the responsibility as legislators to deal with these issues that we have been given. One way or the other we have to deal with them, and the truth remains that we're in difficult economic times. Rather than starting new programs in the state at a time when we're cutting other needed programs and benefits for people that are desperately in need, we should consider the fact that our responsibility is to vote no for this amendment. And one more final point I'd like to make, see this finger right here, Ernie? This finger presses the button that I choose to press the way I decide to press it. There is no lobbyist that presses it for me or tells me how I am going to press it. Thank you.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Thank you, Senator Smith. Senator Nichol, we've got some more lights on. Senator Pappas, please.

SENATOR PAPPAS: Mr. Speaker, colleagues, I've been relatively quiet on this subject, but one thing I'd like to point out and I think Senator Warner pointed it out the other day. A little further down the line in this budget cutting process you'll see where we are cutting the University of Nebraska, I think \$1.5 million. At the same time we're adding a program right now that is going to increase the University of Nebraska's budget for the upcoming years. And I just want to make that a point so people know that and recognize that because there may be a motion coming along here pretty quick to strike the cuts for the University of Nebraska so they can better afford this new start-up of this new program.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Thank you. Senator Chambers, I believe this