

responsible and sometimes we get a little sidetracked and the level of emotion rises. But it is important here not to make hasty decisions. It is important here to make rational choices and I want to reiterate, I guess, the one point that should you decide not to maintain the Scottsbluff program, you have made a hasty choice and I think, in my opinion, an irrational choice that accelerates a downward spiral that is already going on in Nebraska. It doesn't help anybody. It isn't enough money to really enrich this state and, in fact, it further impoverishes this state. Should you decide, as I am going to encourage you to do, to vote to preserve this existing program at Scottsbluff, you won't have behaved irresponsibly, you won't have become a wild-eyed spender, you don't need to go home and apologize for doing that, you will have behaved responsibly. You haven't created any new program. You are merely honoring a commitment that we made as...

SENATOR CARSTEN: One minute.

SENATOR SCOFIELD: ...legislators. You are encouraging a spirit of cooperation among institutions that should be followed by other institutions. So I urge you, create opportunities, invest in the West. It is a place that can help us out of this economic spiral, and if you don't do these kinds of things, you are merely creating a cycle of dependency and dragging the whole state down with this. So I urge you to put the money in this program. It's a good investment. You're not going to have to go home and apologize for being a crazy spender. I don't think the Appropriations Committee exactly has that reputation here and I think you can vote for this in good conscience and not apologize to anybody. I urge you to support the program. Thank you.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Thank you. The question is, shall the Scofield amendment...excuse me. Senator Nichol.

SPEAKER NICHOL: I'd ask for a call of the house, please.

SENATOR CARSTEN: A call of the house has been requested. The question is then, shall the house go under call? All those in favor vote aye, those opposed vote no. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 28 ayes, 0 nays to go under call.

SENATOR CARSTEN: The house is under call. All senators return to your chairs and register your presence. Unauthorized