

SENATOR SMITH: Senator Hannibal.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Senator Hannibal, would you respond to a question, please. Senator Warner is delighted.

SENATOR HANNIBAL: I will try.

SENATOR SMITH: Senator Hannibal, my understanding from the sheet that was handed to me about this concern is that the University of Nebraska received funding for a 3 percent salary increase, \$5,147,223; state colleges' appropriations included 3 percent salary increase of \$827,508; technical community colleges received actually zero appropriations. Can you explain to me how this happens? How did this happen in the Appropriations Committee? Was this intentional?

SENATOR HANNIBAL: Well, I would say, yes, it certainly was intentional.

SENATOR SMITH: Okay. All right, now, will you please explain to me the reasoning of the Appropriations Committee for doing this?

SENATOR HANNIBAL: Well, Senator Smith, there are two kinds of appropriations we make as a Legislature, I mean two broad categories. One category is for state operations and the other is for state aid. And when the technical community colleges' budget came up we were looking upon our contribution as far as LB 1251 as being more of a state aid, much like state aid to education would be looked upon as a state aid project. And while state college and university system are part, kind of, of the state operations, we looked upon the technical community college as more of a state aid project and we said, state aid has not been given any increase in the form of state aid to education and other aid projects, aid to counties and municipalities and those kind of things, and said that we were going to try to stay with the level and try to be consistent and that is why we did not include the 40 percent increase towards technical community colleges, such as in the state aid to education we don't increase state aid to education because the teachers in the school districts negotiated for a salary increase.

SENATOR SMITH: Are the community colleges under the CIR judgments? Do they come under that same kind of requirement as