

go home. That is a commitment, and I wouldn't do that to the schools, but presently I will offer this to you, that 216 of our high schools in the State of Nebraska have vocational education programs and others who have had far more than that. And I submit to you, all you have to do is look at what happened to Beatrice, Nebraska recently. You read it. Because of the 7 percent lid, they are farming...and with the loss of an Ag teacher, they are farming their program out to Southeast Community College for about 17 or 18 Ag students. And those of us in here who know the value of a program as vocational education, and I was in that program one time like many of you were, realize it has a value and a purpose, and I think it has been very successful. But that program goes way back to the Smith-Hughes Act of many years ago...I think it was in 1917 or a little later than that, that program has been subsidized over the years and I think the record is pretty good. And as we enter into a time of our way of life when technology and skills are more important than academic degrees in terms of job entry, I think it is time....

SPEAKER MARVEL: You have 30 seconds.

SENATOR KOCH:that we place before the public schools an encouragement and an incentive to provide vocational programs for children who have an aptitude for vocational abilities or who want to explore the area of vocational programs so they might find their way in life at a sooner rate than they do presently. There is nothing more wasteful to have a boy or girl go to the university system and spend two years at high tuition, then suddenly find out they shouldn't be here because at that time you can't recover the money and that's tax dollars and that's also sometimes not to the best interests of the student.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Your time is up.

SENATOR KOCH: I'm saying that 318 is the answer and if Senator Remmers wants to add an amendment to the provision to add a weighting to disadvantaged vocational programs, I will accept it, but not to strike the rest of it and have that only, because we make provisions for handicapped now under federal monies.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Remmers, do you wish to close on your amendment?

SENATOR REMMERS: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I will try to be brief. I just want to reemphasize the