

important to us, and thank God for individuals who have that mechanical skill. And I submit to you that every opportunity we provide to a high school student whether it be a boy or a girl is not a loss of dollars but a gain of dollars. What this bill attempts to do is provide some stability to programs now in existence. I don't like the 7 percent lid either, Senator Remmers, but I think it is a fact of life. We are going to live with it, and the least we can do is provide schools an incentive to keep programs going rather than cut them, because these are high cost programs, you know that as well as I do. Where they have one faculty member to ten or twelve students in a laboratory where you can't handle any more simply because of certain dangers that go along with that program, you can't have great numbers of students so naturally the costs are higher. When school boards under 7 percent lids start cutting programs, that is where they are going to cut, that's where you will irreparably damage young people. I happen to believe that high school is a place where every child should be given an opportunity to pursue a certain talent whether it's academician, college prep, whether it's manual arts, vocational, or what it might be. Let's talk about the national defense problem we have got. You can build all the new tanks you want to, but unless we have people qualified to take over that sophisticated piece of equipment, your national defense program is going to suffer. I am saying if you want to cut down on unemployment, if you want to help national defense, then you are going to do everything in your power as a responsible body to provide programs at the high school level for exploratory purposes and for career purposes. We need it now like we have never needed it before. Now I would add, if we were intelligent, we would also add language in here as a weighted program because in the war at Vietnam we could only find two qualified people in all this nation who could understand that language and interpret it correctly for those who had to make decisions. Our national production may fail because we don't have enough linguists who can go to other countries and speak their native tongue and sell our product, and that is a fact, and you know it is a fact. But for us to ignore these things I think is not in our best interest, and more importantly, the best interests of the boys and girls in the State of Nebraska. So let's talk about national defense, let's talk about unemployment and employment, let's talk about the dignity of the human being. When you and I graduated from high school, we had plenty of opportunities, plenty of opportunities because we were just moving into the world of technology and so we were even with most people because not many of us knew much except bailing wire and pliers. We could wire anything together on