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we are going to give Western the authority to assess what is necessary to operate a good school or I think this Legislature should merge Western with North Platte, one of the two. There is no use of this school operating below a certain level. Either we want a good school at Western or let's merge it. That was a question that was before us and we established the six vocational technical schools in the State of Nebraska. There was a question then about Western. However, Western is there and they should be given the privilege to operate and operate it like a good school, or we should merge them. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Vickers.

SENATOR VICKERS: Mr. President and members, I rise to echo the comments made by Senator Kremer. As a person living in the midplains area, I recognize the benefits by the technical community colleges. I would point out for the body, however, that Senator Lamb and Senator Cullan, both, have been in the past and are being very consistent today in their dislike for the mill levies levied by the community colleges. But I would point out also that you can change the name of the community colleges if you remove all of the mill levy authority and it certainly wouldn't be community any more. As a matter of fact, I doubt very seriously that there would be as many of the vocational schools as there are right now, particularly in rural Nebraska. I think they do a good job. I don't think that 2 mills or 2 1/2 mills that they might levy is enough to be of any burden on the property taxpayers and I don't think most of them look at it in that fashion. The one thing I think is rather odd, however, is that any increase that might come about with the...what we are trying to give Western and believe me if any of you have been on the Western's campuses, they do need assistance to get more funds. They are doing a good job, but they certainly need more dollars. But Senator Lamb does not, I guess, trust that local board out there to keep them from going hog wild, and I think that is rather strange. Maybe what they need to do is send a letter to Senator Barrett or somebody so he can tell us that they are not going to spend any more than a certain percentage. That would alleviate the concerns of the members of this body. It is strange that we take that trust on the Board of Regents that operate the University system but we don't trust local control, we don't trust the boards that operate the tech schools of this state. I cannot understand that. If we are going to be consistent, it seems to me that we should trust them