

I am always amazed at the number absent shortly after lunch, how long it takes us to get into gear to operate. I am going to speak on behalf of the youth of this state because obviously as policymakers we like to use that neat name often about our grandchildren and our sons and our daughters, and when it gets down to the point of talking about dollars and cents, and I can't see dollars and cents in this piece of legislation in spite of what my good friend, Senator Cope, says and who constantly wants me to vote for Kearney State. I would remind you that education starts at the kindergarten level and starts when you come out of the womb. It doesn't just start at that brick and mortar we place in some Taj Mahal, because we have academia there that we are going to be sure that all young people are going to be able to face this nation tomorrow. That is what we are talking about. I have spent considerable time observing political actions and sometimes I get terribly frustrated because I watch people speak one way and I watch their actions another way, and I would sooner see sermons any time than listen to one. And if you can tell me where the dollars are in this, Senator Cope, I will start raising money on the street corners of Lincoln to help support it. All we are saying as policymakers is we expect the public schools in the State of Nebraska to do these minimal things, and these are not extraordinary. I happen to come from a family not too long ago my father was lucky to go school. He got to the 6th Grade but he had to work the rest of the time and the only day he would go to school would be a day like this when it was too damn cold to do anything else. My father had a great pride for education and it was so great that he put himself in debt to make sure I could go on to higher and better places I would have never been allowed to under any other circumstances. But this generation that we are today we forget how we got where we are. And I want to quote to you, we look at this nation today as becoming a third rate power and we may be closer to it than you think. And I will guarantee you one thing, that the public schools made this nation what it is today and no other system really did it because as one great statesman said, whether you like him or not because of his politics and his name was John F. Kennedy, and I will quote him. "Our progress as a nation can be no swifter than our progress in education. Our requirements for world leadership and our hopes for economic growth and the demands of citizenship itself in an era such as this all require the maximum development of every young American's capacity", and I am talking about Nebraska U.S.A. which is part of this nation. I get tired of people taking on the public schools that we are doing a miserable job, and when you and I have a chance to give them some general direction, we refuse to take the action. After