

anybody in the public sector. After considerable debate I offered an amendment which said it would only be to the school, public schools in the State of Nebraska, and it would done for two years only. At that time the Legislature would review and audit to see whether or not it should continue based upon the needs, and if it didn't need it any more, it would revert to the school foundation equalization section of state aid. Historically that severance tax from oil and gas has always gone to the public schools. Now we are about to enlarge it and put the tech colleges in it and I will submit to you that is not appropriate. We last year under 257 dealt with this issue considerably on this floor and we said it is going to go to public schools because it is for weatherization and energizing relief. That is where it should remain. There is no reason for us to change it in only one year of time. Let me give you an example. In one year there have been \$4 million collected in severance taxes under the present conditions, \$983,000 the first cycle, the second cycle which is now coming up \$1,400,000, and a third cycle which will be some time later this year. In the first cycle there were 88 eligible applications and 26 schools were funded for a total amount of \$983,000 plus their own 25% match. The second cycle the Office of Energy is to advise me, we have 150 applications and only of \$1,400,000 to try to fill those applications. Now let me tell you where those first applications went in this state and it is distributed pretty well around this state. Lincoln got some. Omaha got some. Scottsbluff got three grants, Senator Nichol's district. I am surprised he wants to take away the hand that feeds him. Papillion got one. McCook got one. K-8 rural school districts, Tryon, Nebraska got one. Hastings Public School got one. Ord Public School got one. Leigh Community Schools got one. North Bend got one. Doniphan got one. Johnson-Brock got one. Sandhills Public School got one. Beaver City got one. Ainsworth City School sytem got one. Banner County School District in Harrisburg got one. Broken Bow got one. And all the other applicants were denied. Now here we are about to spread the money around to the point where it will not be reasonable. Not only that, but I think historically we are making a terrible mistake when we start taking that tax which has always been dedicated to the public schools of this state in a trust fund. It was difficult for me last year to take away from that historical tradition to allow weatherization and energization relief to be caused. I just can't understand now we are going to take the technical community colleges and put them in there. It would be just like us also now even to allow to take in