

four state colleges get one hundred percent of their money from us, from the Legislature, but the technical and community colleges do not. They get part of their money from real estate tax. I am not here to say that we should increase the real estate tax. I am opposed to that, but since the community and technical colleges do get part of their money from real estate, they are entirely different than the University of Nebraska and the four state colleges, and as you all know, we have treated them very well in the past. I see nothing wrong with adding the community and technical colleges to this bill. Senator Clark's District needs this money as much as anybody needs it. Senator Clark's District provides darn near all of the money for it. I don't know if that is a reason to be able to spend a little bit of it, a little bit, say an eighth in one year. Maybe that is too much to ask, I don't know. I am not going to say, you know, just because we are the Panhandle you should spend it out there. That is not a reason but you might think about it. I would ask you to reject the Koch amendment.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Warner, your light was still on. Do you wish to speak?

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, I would rise to support the motion of Senator Koch and again to keep it brief, it certainly was my understanding when the diversion of the severance tax was to be used for energy purposes it was very clear that the money would still be going to the public schools just as the severance tax had always done over the years for energy purposes which was in the long run to save them some money, save some pressure on the property tax. I think it would be ill-advised for us to depart from what a great many of us understood would be the effect of the use of that money, only for the public school system. I would hope the body would support Senator Koch.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Nichol, do you wish to close on the motion? Senator Koch, okay, I recognize you.

SENATOR KOCH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be very brief but I remember this bill very vividly last year and the bill was stalled until I placed the amendment on there that let the bill go because historically that severance tax from gas and oil has always gone to the public schools in a trust. Realizing the value of helping those schools in weatherizing and making more energy efficient was the only reason I supported that bill with the understanding the money would revert back to the schools when and if weatherization and energy efficiencies are accomplished. For us but in a span of about nine months to start expanding this is sheer