

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Nichol, your light is on.

SENATOR NICHOL: Mr. Chairman, members of the Legislature, this bill makes community and technical colleges eligible, it doesn't say any money goes anywhere. They should be eligible for this. They should be. Some of those buildings need it. I think we are being derelict if we don't do it. So I guess it boils down to whether you really are for community and technical colleges or not. Most of you live in areas where there is one of these kind of schools. I would think you would be interested in it for your type of school. Maybe you are not, I don't know. Maybe we should have them go down the drain. Just because they are the most rapidly growing type of school in the state, perhaps they are not the thing to have. I think they are. I think they deserve our support. I think they deserve this support and I urge you to support the bill. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Vickers.

SENATOR VICKERS: Mr. President, members, I just wanted to point out that I have been a long-time supporter of the tech schools and will continue to remain so and I would object a little bit to Senator Nichol indicating that a vote against this or a vote for this is a vote against the tech schools. I don't think that is true. What we are talking about is an amount of funds that is only so deep, and as I pointed out earlier, I don't think the industry in Senator Clark's District and my district can afford that to be made any deeper, any larger increases in that severance tax. But I suggest to you again that if we spread those out, there are going to be attempts to get more dollars in there. I also suggest to you that we all have public schools in our districts. This is not taking something away from our districts. Those public schools in our districts have access to these funds now and there is not enough funds to go around with all them so perhaps, perhaps a vote to keep this bill alive might be a vote against your public schools. So you might also consider that.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The Chair recognizes Senator Koch.

SENATOR KOCH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When Mr. Noren appeared in behalf of this bill, he was there for one purpose, to allow energy monies that they use for buildings to be outside the seven percent lid. There wasn't anything in that bill originally to put the tech colleges in as being eligible for this money we are talking about today. I think that ought to be put for the record. Now of what