

levels approximately \$4. They are considering that to make up the shortfall. Basically the philosophy that the university and the state colleges are going to have to use is that students are just going to have to pay a little bit more of the burden of their own education and I don't think that that is necessarily bad. Education has been awfully inexpensive in the State of Nebraska and I don't think that a small slight tuition raise in this particular area is unwarranted. So the technical community colleges do have the ability to generate additional funds to make up whatever shortfall they have without impacting on property tax owners. I have the tuition levels for the institutions of higher education in the State of Nebraska. The University charges undergraduates \$29.25 per credit hour, nonresident, \$79.25. The state colleges charge \$21.00 for undergraduate and \$36.00 for undergraduate nonresident programs. Nebraska Western Community Technical Colleges charges \$16.25 for residents; Central charges approximately \$19.50 although that varies from one program to another; Northeast charges \$15.00; Southeast charges \$20.25; Metro based on an assumption of an average of fifteen credit hours would charge \$20.25; and Mid Plains would charge \$14.00. So those are not outrageous tuition levels. I think that they could all stand a little adjustment without burdening students and I think that the technical community colleges should be treated much like other state agencies because they do derive a significant portion of their funds from state revenues. So I would disagree that they have been treated unfairly. I think they have other means to generate these revenues. Their tuition levels are very low when you compare them even to other state institutions and they are ridiculously low when you compare them to private educational facilities around the state. So I would urge you to reject this motion by Senator Nichol.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator DeCamp. Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, I rise to oppose the motion, and as I stated earlier, I felt there was \$600,000, we could use it once. This is using it twice or reducing reserve. I have a lot of hesitancy that that reserve as proposed in LB 8 can be further eroded and I think it would be unwise to do so. Secondly, as appreciative as I am of the problems that community colleges have, if you look at the total budget, state aid is about 40% of their support and a three percent cut in that state aid equates to a one percent cut in their total budget and I doubt that with the exception of Western which I would admit as we all know has constant problems in revenues because of the restricted property tax base in that area, there is a problem there no matter what