

that the Board of Equalization reports currently reflect. Now I know as well as Senator DeCamp those numbers can change. They can change quickly. They can change often. They can change \$23 million up or down with no problem. But all we can operate on at this point to make a decision are the October revenue figures as provided, and as often as Senator DeCamp is right as to what is going to happen in the next 48 hours, I just cannot base budget decisions on Senator DeCamp's predictions. I remember Senator DeCamp 18 months ago said the Ayatollah Khomeini would not live. The Shah is dead. Bani Sadr is out of Iran and the Ayatollah is still there living. That was one of Senator DeCamp's famous predictions. So we just can't base budget decisions on those types of predictions. We are just going to have to use the numbers that the Board of Equalization provides in their report, and those numbers in that report says there is still two and a half million above the reserve that could be utilized. What I am suggesting to this Legislature is that that reserve money, the money above the reserve, some of that be utilized for higher education, because I think at this economic time this country needs a sound system of technical community colleges in communities like Scottsbluff and North Platte and South Omaha and Fairbury, Norfolk, across the state, that in times like this that we need a sound system of state colleges in Chadron, Peru, Wayne, and Kearney... sorry, Senator Cope, I almost forgot Kearney. We need those state colleges, that we need the technical school at Curtis, that we need the ag experiment stations, that we need the Institute of Agriculture to be strong, that we need a good medical center and that we need a good University in Lincoln and Omaha. In these economic times higher education is important. For this reason, based on the numbers that are before us now, again I just have to discount Senator Decamp's predictions for the time being. Using the numbers before us now, we can fund higher education a little better or cut it a little less, is a better way to phrase it, cut it a little less and still stay above the sacred 3 percent reserve that will only be sacred until January when we can get in to amend the statutes. I would ask for a record vote, please.

PRESIDENT: All right, record vote has been requested. The question before the House is the adoption of the Fowler amendment to LB 8. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Record the vote and a record vote has been requested.

CLERK: (Read the record vote as found on page 90 of the Legislative Journal.) 8 ayes, 32 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of the amendment.