

SENATOR LAMB: The Chair recognizes Senator Vickers.

SENATOR VICKERS: Mr. President and members, I rise to oppose the Haberman amendment but for a somewhat different reason than Senator Wesely, more in line with some of the purposes and the reasoning behind some of the remarks by Senator Warner. I have just had handed out to you a summary of costs associated with the maintenance of the residences and the custodial services and automobile operating expenses and maintenance for the various administrators at the University of Nebraska, both here in Lincoln and in Omaha. And I am suggesting to you that the...and I would like it a matter of public record that the \$3.5 million in cuts to the University, and I think that is what Senator Haberman is really getting at, could be made in areas that may not affect quite so drastically the end result of what education is all about at the University to the students from this state or from other states who may be over there attempting to further their education. Now I believe that out of that \$3.5 million, if you study these costs, and I didn't bother to add them up for you, but we are buying a pretty good house every year. We are buying a better house than I live in, I can assure you, and I think a lot of members of this Legislature live in. And I don't know how important it is for the members of this Legislature to have a nice residence for us to go out and have lunch or have a dinner meeting once a year with the President. I don't know how important it is for the members of this body to have some place where PR work can be done for the University of Nebraska, but for my personal feelings I would much rather see a needed professor stay on the staff or an increase to keep a top quality professor on the staff of the University of Nebraska than to provide such what I term fabulous living quarters for some of our pretty well paid state employees. I don't believe we furnish automobiles, I don't believe that we furnish houses for too many of our state employees, especially employees who are paid in such a good fashion. So it seems to me that the point needs to be made to the Regents and I am not going to support Senator Haberman's amendment simply because I believe the Regents should have the opportunity to look at the total program and make the cuts necessary where they feel that they should be done. But I am suggesting that maybe the Regents should examine some of the frills, maybe even if they apply to us. I didn't bother to check into it but I will point out one other one. Once a year I get an invitation as I think each of you do to attend a football game and a luncheon beforehand and sit up in the press box. Now as one member of this Legislature it bothers me just a little bit when I am treated with such royalty when I am given in essence another seat up there where I can watch it out of the weather and at the same time coming around with free pop to all of us sitting up there. Now that to me, I can't help but think when I am enjoying all that of the stories that we all hear about budget cuts affecting the professors, affecting the students, and I talked to some students and I understand that there are classroom needs that are not being met, and that bothers me quite a bit when we spend so much money on PR frills that have nothing to do with the education of the student.