

school officials and said, don't want to startle you but we're going to have to close our doors on this plant within five years if we don't get the quality of education in our school improved because the type of people that are coming to work here, and the type of people that are coming to work here are primarily the bottom 25 percent of the graduating classes, just don't have the elementary math skills, problem solving skills, communication skills that are needed to make our plant work. We just have to spend too much retraining them and we can't retrain them. And when they talked with this person they found out that the math skills that they were talking about are not your basic general math, business math, those types of class, they are talking about needing basic understanding of algebraic sorts of equations in order to make an entry level position at this particular plant and that is here in Nebraska. That's not the story of the ghettos of New York City or of Chicago or of other cities in our nation, that is right here in Nebraska in a community that I have always assumed probably has one of the best education systems in our state. What is restructuring then? Restructuring is a revision of the schools to focus on how kids best learn. It looks at empowering teachers to make decisions about how to educate young people in their classes. It envisions students being problem solvers and not just gatherers of information. It envisions teachers being assisting students learning as opposed to just being dispensers of information. It talks about...talking about how to deal with this at-risk student, brings the at-risk student into the picture. Talks about a more effective use of resources and some of you who had questions about the last bill, maybe you would be pleased to know that the national experts on restructuring are not saying we need to pour additional millions of dollars into our schools to bring this about. They are saying we need to take the dollars that we currently appropriate to schools and use them more effectively to bring about better education. It also talks about the child as the focus of education and what is happening to impact on that young person. In this area of restructuring, the state can't do its traditional mandating, talk down sort of approach. We cannot mandate that schools will restructure themselves in a kinder, gentler fashion by the year 1995. We can't do that type of thing. There are two things we can do. Number one, we can provide the vision through talking about what we'd like to see done in our education and, secondly, we can talk...we can provide some incentives for improvement. We've got to establish the dialogue and we've got to realize that what is going to be done is going to be done from the