

for, what is it, about half of their support from property taxes? Why do we continue that system? Well, the argument always given is local control. Well, if you have 20 or so counties, you know, I don't think that holds much water and you could say the same thing for the state colleges. You know, they get along pretty well without having a local board. So, one more time, I will say to the Legislature, we should look at the total postsecondary educational system. This is an appropriate time because we have the Kearney State College situation and when we're considering Kearney State College I think we should consider the whole system, including the community technical colleges. And one thing I think should be done is take them off property tax. You know, there is a lot of complaint. We're talking about relieving property taxes very much this year and here's one place where it should be done. You know, it's not a big amount of money, thirty some million dollars, but it's a place to start and this really should be done. In the meantime, we're going to piecemeal our way through the community technical college minefield.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Smith, followed Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SMITH: I will give Senator Schimek my time.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Mr. Speaker and members of the body, I just couldn't resist because for once I find myself agreeing with Senator Lamb and I thought that I would get up and support him on this one because he's right. I'm going to vote for this bill, however, Senator Lamb, because I...because it's the way we have been doing things and until we get a system in place to do it differently, then I'm going to support the bill. But you are absolutely right, it's one of the most critical problems that we're going to face in the coming years and if we don't do something about the Kearney State College issue and all the other state college issues this year, then we better be saying, how are we going to address the whole business of higher education? So I do think...I hope that people were listening when Senator Lamb was speaking because he made a very significant point. And, with that, I will release the rest of my time to Senator Smith if she...okay.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you.