

them for employment and, hopefully, lifelong learning. I found a good quote, "Educated and trained people are an unlimited resource, while uneducated and untrained people are unlimited liabilities." I believe that has a lot to do with it. Back in the budget cuts, vocational education was cut from a lot of the schools, particularly the outstate, smaller schools, and really they need vocational education as bad or worse than maybe the larger communities. It does cost more to provide vocational education, 150 or 200 dollars a student, and the schools are given, in some cases, have to provide matching money for federal money that is received, and some of the schools simply do not have or have not had that matching fund. And, again, it is probably needed worse in rural areas and the smaller communities to have vocational training as in the larger communities. It is just as important to know how to construct a grain elevator or to weld or for technical training as it is in communities that maybe jobs are a little bit more plentiful. I remember in my discussion from previous years, this is a good day to bring the bills to you when we are talking about investment and jobs, economic investment in our state, LB 775, and the discussions today, the tech community colleges, and so on. These are some interesting figures in the state appropriated dollars, Colorado gives 14.9 million or \$351 per enrolled student in secondary education; Iowa, 3.6 million; Minnesota, 11.7 million; Missouri, 34.3 million; Nebraska, the same for about five years, a simple \$122,911, which comes to \$2.99 per student. North Dakota, as sparsely as they are settled, \$4 million or \$179 per student; South Dakota, 2.5, \$144. So if all things being equal and a business is considering coming to Nebraska, which state do you think that they are going to come to? Certainly not Nebraska because we don't give enough to help retrain our workers. It was very important in Columbus, Nebraska, I remember, when a new industry was considering coming into the state. Figures last year, this is interesting, Crete, Nebraska did a survey five years after their students were out of school, and it was three, five, and seven years. One hundred responses were used in tabulating results. When asked which courses they took in high school were the most benefit to them today, 73 percent responded that the courses in vocational education were the most benefit to them in their present employment; 46 percent of those responding listed one or more vocational courses that would be of benefit to them today had they registered for such courses while in high school. Of the 300 surveys, over 75 percent were mailed within 150 mile radius of Crete, which tells you those people stay in Nebraska. I think each one of you were given out