

sometime in the last few days what it would mean to your individual districts, and the programs, I want to mention, maybe, Hastings, Nebraska. They have started a program in educational technology. I think it cost about \$70,000. They brought it to the business community, and the business community provided about \$7,000, Hastings, the benefits from the vocational ed program, about \$4,000, and the rest of it is school budget. So I can go down the list, any number of communities that have a project or are interested in vocational education. One of the ways that the bill this year is a little different than last year, and I probably in time, if you want me to, I can go down, but it is found on page 5 of your bill, and in order to receive the allotted funds, a school district shall complete an application for funds, and it is primarily acquiring modern instructional equipment similar to that found in business and industry; starting a new vocational program; expanding an existing one; adding a new course or a new dimension; and approving access or support for career guidance and counseling programs, which is very important. It includes the acquisition and use of the Nebraska Career Information System. Vocational education is very important to those that have not had that opportunity. I might also tell you, and it is a long list of people that have come in to testify on LB 447, and that have lent their support, the Nebraska Hospital Association, for one. There are a lot of medical opportunities and opportunities of some vocational education or some experience or to let them know what is available. Nebraska Farm Bureau, StarVenture, that is a Lincoln group of business people, very much in support of this bill. The Union Pacific Railroad, the Cushman Plant, the Nebraska Vocational Education, naturally; the Lincoln Independent Business Association, the Omaha Chamber of Commerce, and I believe the Lincoln Chamber of Commerce are also going to support LB 447. Nebraska Commerce and Industry is another one, and I can go down the long list of supporters for vocational education, and what I am trying to reach is that student that would be a dropout, or that student that must be made aware that there are skills that are available, and to start them. The community college, the average age is 29 years, so these students need to be exposed in high school that there is something that they can do and how to follow directions and use the mathematics and so on that is necessary in a work force. Most employers in small business simply can't devote the time or the resources to teach new employees the basic occupations or specific skills, and, again, electronic or technology or retailing. I mentioned to you the hospitals, the medical field,