

can communicate. And once they have got those basic skills, then you can take them any place and train them in whatever specific specialized skills they need. People need to know how to learn to learn, and they need to know how to relearn, given the track record of how quickly our economy is changing and how quickly people have to retrain. You have to be awfully flexible to survive in today's work force, just by virtue of the changes in technology, and the cost of maintaining the kinds of equipment that I think we would have to buy to put in high schools to really do some of this specialized training is so expensive as to be prohibitive perhaps outside of the metropolitan areas, and I think that the level of expertise, again, that you have to have in any work force today is generally getting to the point where it is just a foregone conclusion you are going to have to retrain and retrain and retrain. And so, one, I would suggest that I am not convinced this is a great bill for smaller schools because I don't think they can possibly respond given the kind of money they are probably likely to get out of this, and probably not really going to get us to cope specifically with what is an appropriate vocational education to take people into the next century.

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR SCOFIELD: And, in fact, I think we should seriously debate what is appropriate vocational education today, and what is specialized training. I think that technical colleges are a better place to do that, and we might better spend our money supporting them to do that. We need to encourage sharing of resources between the technical colleges and the high schools, so that we can address some of those legitimate concerns that Senator Nelson is trying to bring, specifically, those kids that need some specialized training, dropouts and so forth. But I have some real skepticism about this bill. It is pretty much the same as it was last year, and so I think those are the real questions we should address here, rather than, is it good policy just to appropriate this kind of money because on the surface there is nothing wrong with vocational education, but I think we need to talk about what is meaningful vocational education today.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Beyer, followed by Senator Beck.

SENATOR BEYER: Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I have got a couple