

SENATOR BEYER: I am not reading that in the bill, that is why I was curious.

SENATOR NELSON: All right, yes. There is a \$5 million cap...

SENATOR BEYER: I know there is a \$5 million cap, but if some of the schools don't use it...

SENATOR NELSON: Then it goes higher for the students...the schools that do use it.

SENATOR BEYER: That makes it awfully dangerous. I think we need to look long and hard at this. I mean I support vocational education in the high schools, but if there is a school that cannot qualify to use it based on some of the criteria, they would lose it. Then the other schools would be able to have it, and it might make some schools go into a program that they can't afford just to get this extra money. So I think we need to look long and hard at that. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Beck, please.

SENATOR BECK: I rise to support Senator Nelson. I was one of the co-sponsors of the bill. There is several others. Because I think that vocational education is so important in the time that we live, and I guess that would put me perhaps at odds with Senator Scofield because I think it is something that is necessary for the secondary school. I would like to see it in junior high to be used as an interface with the tech colleges, and I think, particularly when I think of vocational education is it actually works as an impetus to further education for some who are not perhaps ready to even go on to the technical colleges. There is so many young people who don't know exactly what they want to do, and I think that is part of the job of public education is to give them some skills so that they might, if nothing else, work in order that they can go on into tech college or college. I mean I have had four children and they didn't have a lot of money, and I felt that the vocational skills that they picked up helped them and made them more employable, and also helped them to interface into other programs later on, and I think there are some things that we have to note here, and I don't know, perhaps Senator Beyer and those who have questions about the funding of the bill and the apportioning of it, that probably could be worked out on Select File. But at the hearing, a business man from Lincoln pointed