

We still have got a limited budget. We are going to have to make some choices. My choice is not for this bill. My choice would be, first, to fund the technical colleges, and if possible, do something for teachers salaries.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Nelson, followed by Senator Beck.

SENATOR NELSON: Senator Scofield, you read the same article as I read and that we do need basic skills, we do need reading skills, but these folks need to be exposed to that again to find that we need to upgrade the equipment that we have. Vocational education is very expensive, and that seems to be one of the problems in providing it. Again, there are a lot of incentives for business companies if the schools, themselves, have a little bit of matching money in that respect, and I know that we are all grappling for better education, better thinking skills and so on. Vocationally, they can tell them that. They can tell them there is a job. They can make them sit down and try to think and try to learn, to expose them to that. Agreed, the service sector is expanding and there are many of these jobs that can be provided in high schools, or at least some basic information, and for retailing and merchandising, and as I said, in the health care area. There are many, many fields that vocational education, it kind of bothers me. We can come in and ask for \$115 million to improve someone's salary that is over 30,000 or 35,000 dollars a year, and yet we can't quite think of the person that is trying to struggle to go out and try to improve himself over a 12, or a 14, or a 15 thousand dollar salary and needs those same living...likes to make a decent living, too. And here we talk around, as I said, over \$100 million dollars and I know this is not a lot of money. I would rather say that we are going to give each school 30 or 40 thousand dollars, 50,000, some of them do, which makes a lot of difference to a small school, but, again, I thought I was realistic in the amount of money that I asked for, and I don't know that upgrading teachers salaries would make one bit of difference in this 50 percent of schools (sic) that do not go on to education. Those salaries are not the same salaries that I am talking about in these people that need vocational help, and I really, as I said, I want you to remember, the jobs offered in LB 775, and the retraining, and what other states are doing, and they just look at Nebraska and everything else being equal, they do not, a company would not consider then Nebraska. And I am not saying that we don't need to articulate with the community college, we do, but there is that time from high school to they