current practice of what is going on versus what 651 says and what current statute says needs to be going on, then there will be somewhat of a shift of aid to students attending private institutions versus aid to students that are attending public institutions, and we get into the question, is that good public policy? I would argue it probably is, that the state...we currently spend approximately $210 million in assistance to students that are attending public institutions. We provide that in assistance by appropriating General Fund monies to the university, to the community colleges, to the state colleges for assistance programs, merit scholarship, regent scholarship, athletic scholarships, all of those kinds of things. Senator Hall just gave me some numbers here indicating that I'm grossly underestimating my figure. It's closer to $283 million. Currently, students that are attending private schools get 245, $250,000 of aid from the state to further their state, their education. We, in Nebraska, again, I know you get tired of hearing particularly the Chair of the Education Committee talking about Nebraska's ranking, but we are way, way, way, way, way at the bottom of the scale of how we support students to get higher education that happened to choose to go to a private institution. What this bill would do, if this passed and no other piece of legislation passed, I should clarify that, there would be more aid going to students that choose to attend private colleges and I think that's a good public policy and I support that. That's not because I don't support public institutions. My vote supports 250 plus million dollars a year of aid to public institutions and students attending public institutions. I just think a little piece of that pie can go to those that choose to go to the private institutions. That is why I am supporting the bill.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Pirsch, please, followed by Senator Jacky Smith.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Thank you, Mr. President. I have a question for Senator Hall if he would yield. I guess, Senator Hall, philosophically I have no problem with this, but I do have some questions about the fiscal note. The expenditure, ongoing expenditure, as I see, is 99,000 the first year, 89,000 the second year, and looking under the review analysis, that goes strictly for staffing for financial aid, administrators, for data processing applications and word processing specialists. I guess my question is, why do we need this kind of increase in staffing and you might also comment on the amount of aid that