

please.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President and members of the body, I rise to support this proposal. I think we need it and so, therefore, I'm going to support it, and I want to tell you just a few reasons why. I know this is a little increase in property tax to those community tech colleges but I think it only affects two of them. And, as I understand it, and I'm not a member of the committee, but, as I understand it that all the community tech colleges supported this proposal. But let me go a little further, and I hope that Senator Moore is listening. Tech colleges have done a tremendous job in training our young people, not only training our young people but some of our older ones too, training those that are not able to go to like our universities or our state colleges. And I just want to refer...and I will tell you about what happened in northeast Nebraska. Years ago we only had one tech college and I believe that was at Milford, but anyway there wasn't too many from northeast Nebraska that went way down to Milford to get their training. But after we developed a community tech college in Norfolk, more of them went and this really helped us in our rural communities because now we could train the plumbers and the electricians and the radio technicians and the TV technicians and many others. In fact, the power companies even have their linemen train at Northeast Nebraska Tech College. In this day and age of economic development, and I'm certainly a booster of that, we can get our tech colleges to train these people, these employees that these companies want to hire. And so they really serve as a valuable training institution. And so I think that we ought to support this bill and hope that you can support it. Thank you.

SENATOR HANNIBAL: Thank you, Senator Hefner. Senator Moore, please.

SENATOR MOORE: Mr. President and members, after listening to all the speakers, I thought maybe a little bit more needs to be said. I mean, the fact of the matter is this bill isn't a referendum on whether or not you support technical community colleges. I mean, if that was simply what it was, I would be in wild favor of that. It's something I think they do a very fine job and in the past I have worked for and tried to get them additional state funds to help them do their job, so I agree with everything Senator Hefner has said and everybody is giving great kudos to the tech colleges, I will join in on that. What