

talking 5 to 6 million dollars in Cash Funds that could have went for anything. Now they went to a variety of things. Did they go to the engineering college? No. It was an emergency. Why not? That's the question you have to ask yourselves. Why didn't it go there? Instead, the Governor vetoed it last year. It is ran back in in the middle of a biennium as an emergency and we have to pony up a half a million dollars, and if we don't, we are the bad guys, we close the engineering college. That is a bunch of malarkey. It is as simple as that. This is the problem I continued to have with the Board of Regents long before the July situation, long before that. They pick and choose things that they think we can't say no to. They serve them up to us, and if we don't come up with a half a million dollars, we are the bad guys. Now they have \$700 million in total funds, \$260 million in General Funds, millions of dollars in Cash Funds. They could have went to those but, no, it wasn't a high enough priority. I think the engineering college is a high priority. I think, given the money we appropriate to the university, they should have taken care of this problem. I think with the Cash Fund flexibility they had, if it was, indeed, such an emergency, why on earth didn't they appropriate funds to that. And they will tell you there needs to be an ongoing fund source to get around the accreditation problem. Well, that may be true, I am not saying it is true, but we can certainly get through the biennium and next year we could put a line in the budget like that. We don't now have that, but now they are saying if we don't put a line in the budget for that, the engineering college closes. I hope people are listening and paying attention to this because I think you could send a strong message to whatever form of higher education we have in the State of Nebraska; you bring us a request, it had better be legitimate. And if you have an emergency with the flexibility we give you, you are supposed to take care of it. In the biennial budget, the secret is (inaudible) the flexibility to last two years. If you can't do it, then come back to us. The university most certainly can. By voting for this amendment, you are not penalizing the university. You are not really penalizing the students. You are not...some will be saying, are we trying to get even? Certainly not, this is an ongoing problem I have had. The money was available to do this. The Board of Regents chose not to, and now we have to pony up the money. I don't think we should. I, obviously, am serious about this and I hope the body adopts this amendment, and sends a very strong signal, we mean it when we talk biennial budget, and sends a very strong signal, if you have Cash Funds like that,