

exactly the same. I cannot buy that. I just cannot buy that concept. So I just wanted to say a few things about that, and one of the reasons I think that the ACT scores, and ACT is different than SAT. One of the reasons probably they have gone down in the last 20 years, there is more students take them than used to. I would think maybe just the law of probabilities or the statistical laws in math would make that happen a little bit, and they aren't terrible losses. They aren't really low. They are still pretty high. So with that, I will stop talking and "Bud", if you want, ...oh, he is gone. I was going to give some of my time to "Bud" Johnson (sic) but...Chris, wants to talk. Shall I let you talk? Okay.

SENATOR ABBOUD: Thank you, Senator Crosby. I am going to have to apologize, first off here, because I am going to kind of do a little bit of a rebuttal on your statements. You know, I guess the point of these figures isn't to say that we have a bad educational system in this country, and when we make comparisons on math scores and the figures I have pointed out dealing with arithmetic, algebra, geometry, statistics measurement, calculus, where America ranks consistently well below Japan and the other 14 countries that were a part of this comparison, it is not to say we have a bad system. We are just saying we don't have as good of an education system as these other countries. And what does that translate into? Does it mean that when kids get together, and let's say they go to college and they go to...

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR ABBOUD: ...USC, and some kids from Japan come over, and those kids score the highest in their class in comparison to Americans, well, no, it doesn't mean that? What it does mean is that we have foreign trade imbalances. It means that when Japanese sell Acuras, or Toyotas, or Nissans, their quality is better because they have a better research and development and that is probably why the American industry throughout this country from Lee Iacocca to our local Chamber of Commerce here in the state is very concerned about our educational system. Children are getting educated, but are they getting as well or as good of an education as those students in Japan, or those students in Taiwan, or Korea, or Germany. There has got to be an answer because we used to be on top of the world when it came to foreign trade imbalances. We used to be on top of the world when it came to research and development. Now we are slipping away.