

in this state. Towards this end, \$750,000 is a fair contribution to make, given the kinds of contributions that others make to make our public institutions work as well as they do. I'm prepared to vote for this bill and for the money to fund it in the next bill.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Nelson, you're next.

SENATOR NELSON: I just have a question, and I think that I...more or less to call it to the attention of the body and maybe Senator Lindsay, and I'm sure that Senator Coordsen is not aware of this in his conversation and so on. In order to qualify for a Pell grant, and it is not...it is addressed on the federal level, or it may or may not be, but it is...they are certainly aware of it, a person cannot qualify, and this takes most of Coordsen's rural...Senator Coordsen, most...I may tell you or ask you, if you are aware that in this bill it calls for a student aid index of 1,000 or below as determined by the federal Pell grant program. Most rural people do not qualify for federal Pell grant, or student aid assistance. I will tell you why. The income, the resources, the money that students may be able to offer themselves is all fed into that computer, which goes to Los Angeles, and their depreciation schedule on their farm return, or that that woman that is living in Cairo, Nebraska and her husband is trying to farm and they may have three children, she may want to go to school to increase her...a nurse, increase her education opportunities, and they will not qualify at all under the student aid program. It hopefully will be addressed in the future, but right now the figure that they're talking about is \$40,000 on the depreciation schedule. But when that depreciation is taken into consideration and is kicked out, rural families do not qualify. And so it's unfortunate, but that's the way it is. And I don't know if, Senator Coordsen, you want to address that, or Senator Lindsay. But I'm certainly willing, and I see the need. I can't see that this is going to make a lot of difference when the difference in the cost or the tuition is usually, in most cases sometimes nearly double. And I do have the problem also of excluding like the school of business, those kids are just as needy as the others, in fact more so because they're trying to go on a year, or 15 months, and get something that they can go out and work and make a living. But I do want to call that to your attention, and I'm certainly willing to work with anyone. But right now that may be a problem in the way the bill is worded.