

are going to ask each individual campus to start looking, at least looking at cutting needed programs, I think it's incumbent upon us, as far as I'm concerned, maybe above anything else that we do here to make certain that our university system which, really in my mind, is the...really the fulcrum of our state government. It's the...it's what transcends the young people to adulthood and it, hopefully, keeps them in the State of Nebraska, provides them opportunities to look at Nebraska as a place to stay and to live. And, if we don't do anything else, I think that we need to adequately fund our university system so that programs are not cut and that tuition is not raised unreasonably above what it should be under the circumstances. I realize the \$3 million increase in appropriations...in a \$3 million increase in appro...in this appropriation is a lot of money under the circumstances and I know that it would mean most likely that this money would come from other A bills and other concerns and desires that other senators have. I appreciate that. But I, at least in my sense of priorities in funding from those A bills, funding for the university and providing adequate funding for salaries is the highest of priorities. And, with that, I would...I hope we will have some debate on this. This is...

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR ASHFORD: ...a very serious, in my view, a very serious proposal, one that I mean to be serious and hope that there will be sufficient support to add this to LB 845. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Ashford. I will recognize the senators in the following order. Senator Landis, Moore, Wesely, Crosby and Bernard-Stevens. Senator Landis.

SENATOR LANDIS: Madam President and members of the Legislature, I applaud Senator Ashford's motion and intend to vote for it. He addresses the real needs of the university, which are personnel. It is a fact that there are those needs across the entire system and Senator Ashford recognizes that by making this a lump sum appropriation to be determined by the Regents. There are needs on the UNO campus. There are needs on the Kearney campus. There are needs here in Lincoln and this would go a long way towards meeting those. The virtue is that this is a method of dealing with those needs, that eschews the taking from Peter to pay Paul kind of a concept. We are not turned upon each other to fight for scraps and in that sense I think Senator