

the...the signals I've gotten from the lobbyists for the university. It just upsets the heck out of me that the university muzzles each individual campus, that UNO cannot present its case, that University of Nebraska at Kearney cannot present its case because the university system generally says, no, no, no, we don't want you talking to the senators. That's very frustrating to me.

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR ASHFORD: But all of that politics aside, all of that politics aside, I think that the central core issue is of preserving programs for our college age students and our young people in the state. And I think it's a critical...of critical importance and that's why I've brought this amendment to you at this time. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Ashford. Senator Nelson.

SENATOR NELSON: Madam Speaker, again, I guess here I go again today. I appreciate Senator Lynch's speech and also Senator Ashford's position but I wonder when the taxpayers are going to come into this picture. We talk as if, well, we've got to rob the rainy day fund, we've got to rob this fund, we've got to rob that fund, we have to come up with \$10 million here, we have to come up with \$3 million there. I will tell you that I went to the conference back in Washington and 36 states are in severe problems with their budget and it seems to me like we're going down that very same path ourselves when we're talking about either be it for \$10 million or \$15 million for secondary teachers. We're not asking for any accountability. We're not asking for any improvement in education. We're just blindly giving it away. I almost seem that very same way with the professors of the university. They have received raises. They are pitting themselves against Kearney. Kearney State has been low and it is low and will probably remain low. And I don't think that's a problem for we legislators necessarily to solve, we give them the money. But I want to know, in all of this discussion, and as I see today along and as I see yesterday we either want to rob a rainy day fund, we want to fudge, we want accounting adjustments maybe or we want one thing or the other. When are the people back home that have income, at least half and 50 percent of these two groups that we're talking about, when are they going to be considered? They feel like they've had it and I do too. And I think this is the time that the