

One is that 829, the way it presently is going to extend the lid on the subdivisions until '94, and what is happening with some of the metropolitan community colleges is rapid growth, far more than what they expected. And I think it is important to realize that the request here is based on actual growth, not any predictions of growth, but actual growth based on audits of the increases from the previous year. The other thing I think it is important to remember is that in the community colleges you could say, well, let's just up the tuition, but it is important to remember that the lower tuition is a critical factor in many people attending the community colleges. Many of those have a large majority of their students from lower socioeconomic status, and many of them, in fact, the vast majority of them are part time and, therefore, are not eligible for scholarship aid. And so I think that this is a reasonable request that would allow, again, for actual growth, and is...my understanding is less than what is allowed with the school systems. So I would urge your support of this amendment.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Rasmussen. Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Madam President and members of the body. I would just like to answer a couple of questions. I don't know why I let Senator Robinson get me all confused but I did. The \$354, Senator Robinson, is the increase that would be raised by the property tax for each new student. Now that doesn't come anywhere near the \$2,184, or whatever it is, that it costs to educate each student. What the community colleges would be getting is just a fraction of that amount, actually, but it would help with that increasing enrollment that they are getting. But I also would like to respond to Senator Moore and others who were talking about the fact that why should we treat community colleges differently from the NRDs or the fire departments or whomever, but why should we treat them differently from the public schools. The funding for community colleges and the funding for public schools is very similar. They both get about 40 percent state aid. So why shouldn't we treat them similarly. We are looking at some areas of the state that apparently are having big increases. Metro will probably keep growing for a long time just because of its population base. I think that we have to be cognizant of that as we have been with the local public schools, and allow them to build in something for large growth that would be very difficult to make up with the regular funding. So, with that, I would just urge the adoption of the amendment.