

pregnant. And, quite frankly, I've been reflecting over an editorial that was in the McCook newspaper that I would like to read you very quickly. It's entitled, "Chizek's Move is a Cheap Shot". "The move by Senator Jerry Chizek of Omaha to close the College of Technical Agriculture at Curtis is nothing more than a cheap shot at rural Nebraska. Chizek introduced LB 29 to close the school, saying it was another option to cutting the budget." Baloney! Neither NCTA nor any other educational institution is responsible for the projected \$153 million shortfall the state is facing. The primary cause of the shortfall is increased state costs for Medicaid which provides health care for the poor and elderly. Primarily, it has come about because the Legislature caved in to special interests and decided that Nebraska should be a national leader in giving aid to families with dependent children. The state now pays women from the time of pregnancy as diagnosed. Nebraska is one of two states that made the payments early in pregnancy. Massachusetts had a similar program and we all know what such liberal programs have done to that state's finances. Governor Nelson had recommended delaying the cash it now pays women receiving the aid from the time of pregnancy as diagnosed until the baby's birth. This would put Nebraska in line with most other states. The cuts in AFDC would save the state one million this year, 2.2 million the year thereafter. These women will still receive help as there are a number of prenatal and nutrition programs available. We agree with most of Governor Nelson's proposal. The proposal calls for the cut to be only for five years and then the original plan of paying from the time of pregnancy is diagnosed would be restored. Why restore the cuts? There is adequate aid available to pregnant welfare recipients. Obviously, most of those affected live in the metropolitan areas. This bill is Senator Chizek's...is Senator Chizek's to close NCTA is simply a feeble attempt to embarrass Governor Nelson, a McCook native, and for an Omahan to take another swipe at rural Nebraskans in agriculture. Now there's nothing more removed from the truth, my colleagues, and I responded to this editorial writer and I'm going to let you know how I responded. Your recent editorial headlines, Chizek's Move is a Cheap Shot, relative to LB 29's proposal of eliminating state General Funds for the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture at Curtis seems to me in dire need of accuracy and rationality.

SENATOR WARNER: One minute.

SENATOR CHIZEK: At least that's how I'll respond as the object