

be happy to yield it to you.

SENATOR WARNER: Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Senator Withem. I appreciated your answers to my questions. I know the intent of what Senator Chizek was trying to accomplish and I think the original bill called for just down-and-out closure of the campus, is that correct? Potential middle ground, I think that the committee amendment is too weak. All it does is say a review of the administrative structure is in order and questions about whether the campus should go on, the programs go on. I guess the programs will be reviewed by the coordinating commission, but what I was worried about from the beginning on this whole issue is, will Curtis have a protected status apart from all the other higher education programs in terms of these budget cuts? And the answer I got was, essentially, yes; that if the university, the state colleges, as they look at the 1.5 percent budget cuts, review their programs and make decisions on budget cutting, they will not, evidently, have the ability to review the Curtis campus to decide whether or not a cut is in order, and that doesn't seem fair to me. I know we didn't spend a lot of time on the budget bill, LB 1, but I was going to ask Senator Moore about how that bill will affect the university, what kind of cuts might be in order, what kind of impacts it might have, and I hope to have that discussion on Select File. But from some initial review and discussion I have had with the university, we are talking about a fairly severe impact, the potential for once again, as we did a few years ago, looking at whole colleges being closed down, certainly programs being shut down, sections of courses being eliminated. We are not talking about the end of civilization, as we know it, but we talk about a pretty strong impact, at a \$2 million a year impact, when on top of another \$2 million a year cut at UNL just recently. And UNO, and Kearney, and the Med Center, and state colleges are all likewise feeling the hit. Apart and aside from all those stands Curtis, and I don't know, is there... I guess I wonder, is there any reduction in the Curtis budget under any of the bills that are before us? I don't know if there is even the 1.5 percent cut. And if we are going to allow for us to make the decision of what is the best place to cut in terms of priorities, where is the least negative impact going to be if we are going to have cuts, the Curtis campus and that program needs to be laid on the table. That is what Senator Chizek is talking about. I don't know if this body wants to make the decision and pass the bill