

it's there, it's there. Now if I'm looking at it differently, I would like to have someone from Appropriations Committee stand up and tell me. But I've already...I sent that information out that Senator Warner gave us, sent it out to every elected official in my district and I will tell you they've got a lot of problems with it. Of course, I cringe too when I look at it but we know we're going to have to do something about it. So when that lid bill comes up, you better keep in mind how much money we're talking about spending because every subdivision can stand up here and justify why they're spending money just like everyone else up here is trying to justify in spending money. Thank you.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Robinson. Senator Wickersham.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Thank you, Madam President. I will be brief and simply say, in part, that I rise to oppose the Avery amendment. I'm not sure that things can't be done within the budget of higher education potentially to save money, but we've already, just a few minutes ago, passed over to Select File a bill that spent a great deal of money on higher education. Maybe that would have been the place to start the examination. I certainly don't think you ought to start the examination in the way that Senator Avery is suggesting. And I will have to be a little bit parochial in my remarks because I'm not perhaps as familiar with the entire education...higher education sector as Senator Avery might be. But cuts of the magnitude that he's proposing would have a disastrous effect on Chadron State College. Now I'll admit that Chadron State College is in my district but it educates students from all over the State of Nebraska, and it has also been a leader in the innovation of distance learning. And if Chadron State College does not receive the funding that's provided for and included in the state college funding in general, it will be unable, in my opinion, to continue its efforts in distance learning, and that would be also somewhat inconsistent with the bill that we just passed a few minutes ago that dedicates an additional \$2 million to distance...approximately \$2 million to distance learning through the NEB*SAT program. It doesn't make any sense. The other issue that I think we need to be concerned about is that we have actually had a growth in enrollment in the state college system and that there is a crying need for additional faculty in the state college system to provide education to those students. I don't think Senator Avery has the right idea at least as