

independent individuals and you look at the need that exists today in the Omaha community and it will exist just five short years from now, that this \$100,000 should not be looked at as an expense but as an investment. It has the ability and it will cost additional monies down the road. There is no doubt about that. It means that what we would begin is a process of looking at, developing a full-blown College of Engineering at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. It's not something new. There was one there in the seventies and in the sixties prior to the merger with UNL. The proposal says that we have to begin that process and you don't begin that process by throwing 100...or 1.5 or 2 million dollars, whatever the projected figure was for purposes of having that up and running at a full-blown level, but what you do is you provide for some administration, some leadership there to look at the needs on that campus, in that community and, frankly, for the state as a whole. It is not the parochial issue that it ought to be. It has been addressed that way. It has been argued that way and, unfortunately, by many of the proponents, there's no other way that folks can look at it. I mean, you see a letter that's signed by 100 businessmen basically saying, you know, if you don't give us that college, well, we're going to...we're going to close the checkbook. And, you know, how do you interpret that? It's a fair interpretation to say that that's, in a sense, blackmail, but I guess in defense, and I won't defend them very...very much, this issue has been on the burner for a number of years. It's not new. It's been looked at, I know, for at least eight years that I've been dealing with it on and off, directly or indirectly through my employment, and it is a vitally important issue to the state. Look at the economic base that exists in Omaha and look at the types of individuals and the types of companies that operate there and the needs that are projected in the next five years. The study that was done showed that right now there are engineers in the Omaha area that are employed in engineering and construction. They're just over 2,100. The projection is in five years that need is going to grow by 80 to 2,200. In the area of communications and computer systems right now, there are 1,200 engineers employed in that area and the projections are that there's going to be a need for 2,200 engineers in this area in the next five years. That's an increase of 1,180 in a five-year period. In manufacturing and in all other areas, its combined third category, right now there's 100 engineers that work in that area and the estimate is that it will grow by 30 percent to 130, so we're looking at a base right now that exists just over 3,200 that will grow, a need that exists and that will