

to be a decision that this body has to make to decide which ones are the most important. I felt like that Senator Bromm had an amendment that you might want to hear and discuss but it appears that there is an objection to that. So we can discuss my amendment. If you have any questions, I certainly would be in a position to try to answer them. I think that many of the people from particularly the university setting and from, I'm certain, the people of Omaha feel that this appropriation of \$1,800,000 is important or they wouldn't be supporting it, and I recognize that it is important but there's a big question in my mind as to how much can we afford. It's a question can we go ahead and fund everything that comes before us or do we want to decide what the priorities are and support those. I made the comment that I don't think that Nebraska, a million and point five or six million people can afford two full-blown universities. I've said that in the past and I continue to say it. I certainly do not condemn the University of Omaha and the work that they do for the people there in the metropolitan area, but the question comes down is how much can we afford? And I guess what irritated me more than anything is when I read the names on the letter and come to the conclusion that should Omaha, in fact, win on this particular issue, those people who are so interested, I suppose probably the next thing is they will refuse to provide any support unless we can move the stadium and the football team to Omaha, and I suppose then we can fight that issue on the floor and decide is that a good idea. I'm not here to fight with the people from Omaha or the senators here from Omaha. They're...they have their reasons for wanting the things up there that are needed as much as I do. Many of you know that I have supported Peru State College for a good many years. They've taken some real hits over the years in the kind of funding. They've had growth that the university hasn't had and yet they've had to take the hits too. So I guess what it comes down to is you can have your priority and I can have mine and somebody said, "ne'er the twain shall meet." I hope that somewhere in the middle we can meet. But, at any rate, I will continue to ask this to be brought to a vote and let your conscience be your guide as to where you think we should make cuts in this budgeting process. With that, I will be open to any questions. Thank you.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Vrtiska. For discussion on the Vrtiska amendment, Senator Hall.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Madam President, and members, I rise