

resources into research and the engineering and the other components of higher education that bear fruit for us with our broadened economy. These are the things that Utah did and they have thrived as a result. We started and did some of that in Nebraska and then we've kind of drifted away from it and to do the Bromm amendment will have us drift even further away from the concept that money is better spent in education than it is on some of the...

**SPEAKER WITHEM:** One minute.

**SENATOR WESELY:** ...tax breaks and tax incentives we always seem to find the money and resources to do. So, in terms of my priorities, I think higher education and particularly education in general is where we need to be putting our resources. And, again, I suggest that the Appropriations Committee was right when they said, let's not do this funny money vacancy savings approach to funding salaries, let's do it straight up and find the money. With that, again, I oppose the Bromm amendment and the Vrtiska amendment.

**SPEAKER WITHEM:** Thank you, Senator Wesely. I would like to recognize a guest of Senator Wehrbein. We have 50 sixth graders from Syracuse Elementary School in Syracuse, along with their teacher. They are in the north balcony. The speaking order now is Senator Kristensen, Chambers, Wehrbein, Bernard-Stevens, Preister, Bromm, Beutler, Cudaback, Robinson and Stuhr. Senator Kristensen.

**SENATOR KRISTENSEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, it's interesting as well this debate that we're having on this particular budget, because in the past years many of the amendments to the budget are additions. We need to spend extra money. We need to do extra things. And the Appropriations Committee spends a good deal of their time defending off additional spending measures that are being added to the budget now that there's a line to hold. This year, obviously, the complexion is different. The committee defends its decisions and now it's to cut in certain areas and they're defending some of the policy choices. But this particular cut, let me try to put it in real terms in what it will do to at least two institutions that I know of, that being UNO and in particular UNK, is that they survive because they have a smaller budget. They survive knowing that there is going to be vacancies. They plan for the vacancies and that that money that