

all the discussions that we've had. Everybody wants Internet. Everybody wants early childhood education. Everybody wants these good things but you still have to come down to earth some time and decide if you can afford to pay for it. I'm simply saying this is an area that we can cut. It was a pilot project. We did give them, over the course of three years, must have been over a million and a half dollars to these areas. We did go ahead and do that but now when we're looking at areas to cut I think that since they do have support of many of the...or several of the state senators here on the floor, maybe they can get involved in their communities...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Time.

SENATOR WITEK: ..and find.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Witek. Senator Vrtiska.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Madam President, members of the body, most of the questions that I had regarding this particular issue have been answered by the various speakers. As has been noted, one of the projects is in southeast Nebraska in Falls City in my district. I had the opportunity to go down and visit this project and spend some time there. I was certainly pleased at the progress that was being made. One of the questions that I wanted to ask to find out for myself is, in fact, are these projects going to continue in the same communities or are there going to be attempts in other areas to... to start up pilot programs in other schools? And I understand from listening to the debate and by reading the material that the amount of money that will be expended on various projects that are now underway will be reduced and there will be some local funding involved, as I understand it. I was interested in Senator Witek's remark about 2 million dollars being raised in Millard. That may be not too difficult for an area like that, but you have to remember that in some of the smaller school districts across Nebraska raising 2 million or 1 million or a half a million dollars would be an impossible task because there just isn't that kind of money out there. I understand very clearly that this was a two-year or three-year project, but I guess when you look at a project that's been started, a pilot project, and I understand that a great deal of, from what Senator Brown has said, a great deal of detail has been gathered about the success, if in fact those things are true then it would be in my opinion wrong to, at this particular time, to... to basically