

recognized to speak.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: You're welcome, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER WITHEM: I was not thanking you. I was thanking Senator Hilgert.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: (Laughs) Senator Chambers, I think you and I both know where this amendment is going to go, and I know you may have been encouraged by Senator Schellpeper who said he was tempted. Senator Schellpeper said he was tempted to support it. But I know Senator Schellpeper, he tries to fight temptation whenever he can. So I don't know if you can count on that support there or not. And I suspect that, Senator Chambers, you know, as I know, what's going to happen to this particular amendment. But I'm going to rise and support the amendment for different reasons, and also, I must confess, because I know it's not going to pass. But I think I still would support it. However, yeah, Senator Wehrbein said they were going to follow and way behind, I suspect. Senators, the reason that I'm going to argue, at least in favor of the bill, is something that Senator Warner said earlier in response to some dialogue with Senator Beutler and Senator Hillman. What...if you were paying attention, what actually was said on the community colleges, and now that my memory is coming back better, it was Senator Hillman that brought the subject up. If you're looking at community colleges, and I'm thinking particularly of Mid Plains, which, certainly, I have a vested interest in as well as all of the community colleges, and Western, if you look at their levy, they are so high because the valuation is so poor in that area that for them to drop to an eight and then to a four, they will cease to exist, literally. That is not a, oh, my, the sky is falling, that is fact. They will cease to exist under that form. And what Senator Wehrbein indi...Senator Warner indicated was that eventually what will have to be a policy issue, and then Senator Wickersham was brought in, as the community colleges, since they cannot survive in that environment will need to bring, be brought over, probably, to the state and the state would pick that up, which is a concept that Senator Wickersham and others have had. And I'm sure that concept will be a reality if we do 1114 and LB 299, or whatever the other one is. Please understand where I'm coming from, if we just say, that's what we're going to have to do, or that's probably, at this point looks like the best