

handed out something that was in my local paper that, today, that talked about two school districts that I represent. Senator Preister as well as myself represent the Ralston Public School system and they were recently honored by the Redbook magazine as one of America's best high schools and they won out of a total of 63 schools. They received an award. They singled them out for a number of different factors, but over all they looked at the educational quality, the extracurricular activities, the quality of students that they had there as a result of the faculty that they had teaching at that school. And, in addition to it, they listed Westside School as the other school that they singled out. In addition, they singled out Elmwood-Murdock for overall excellence, and Omaha Westside for best of the states. So they focused in on the schools that they felt were doing a great job. Now, this isn't the first award that this school has won. They received a blue ribbon award a few years ago as well as the other school district, one of the other school districts I represent, Westside School, District 66, that also received a blue ribbon award this year. You may recall that we did a resolution sponsored by myself, Senator Jensen, and Senator Brown, that honored that Westside School system for being one of the top schools honored by the Department of Education. And, to me, it's kind of...it is very ironic to me that we have a piece of legislation that clearly is damaging to the schools in our state and, instead of focusing in and making other schools try to exemplify the schools that are being honored by outside...outside, Department of Education, being honored by magazines that focus in on educational quality of the schools, we're trying to decrease the quality of the education in those schools. Now, I discussed earlier how, with the impact of LB 1050 along with the 2 percent lid that's going to be slammed down on these schools with the passage of these property tax measures, we will have a loss of 25 to 26 students or teachers that will have to be absorbed by that school. Now, that cannot help but hurt the educational quality to that educational system. And the same applies to the Ralston Public School system. They've tried to deal with reducing the expense of education in their school district and...but they'll be forced into a situation of losing around 800,000 dollars as a result of passage of 10<sup>th</sup>). They'll again have the 2 percent lid that will be slammed on them and they will be only forced to reduce their costs and the major costs of education come through labor, which is in, of course, staff and the teachers. So they will also have a reduction in the amount of teachers. And,