

But in essence, you know the Kansas City schools were taken over several years ago, I think more than ten, by the court system because of inadequacies in the system. Since that time they've spent \$1,600,000,000--our one-year budget in Nebraska from General Fund, almost. And apparently they have not solved many of their problems. And I'll let you read the article to see where they spent their money. But that's really the point of what I'm thinking. I feel we have to keep the pressure on. I'm careful in what I'm going to say because I don't want to necessarily make a general statement and blanket everyone, because there certainly are some good, strong districts out there doing whatever they have to do and perhaps more. But on the other hand, I have to say that I'm also disappointed in the attitude in many of the schools, as expressed in letters and otherwise, that I have received and the attitude toward this particular thing. Seems to me in an entrepreneurial spirit, and that's the best description that I can come up with, without quantifying it or qualifying it...quantifying it anymore, is the fact that instead of saying, like I think many in business were, that there's an obstacle...yes, we're going to cooperate; yes, we're going to do what we can. Give us a couple years to see what we can do. We guarantee you that we will have better students and better teachers and they will come out with higher test scores in the next few years. Regardless of what you throw at us, we are going to go around it, we are going to go under it, we are going to go over it. Whatever the obstacle is we in the school system are going to do a better job and, no matter what happens, we are going to do that. But instead I've heard many say the sky is falling, the sky is falling, you can't do it, you can't do it, we can't do it, we can't do it. Certainly very few businesses would survive in the climate that we've had in the last 100 years in this country, let alone the last ten, or even right now, with the attitude...if they didn't have the right attitude, they failed. So I think this is just one area that we need to apply some common sense and let those districts that are already perfect, then we'll recognize that and take care of it. But there are some that obviously have some ways to go. And as I look back on it, too, I remember good teachers, and I remember not so good teachers. Perhaps that's a polite word, but certainly some teachers are more effective than others, whether it's at the college level, the high school level, or the elementary level. And I think we're going to have to start approaching that...ideas that way and recognize that and say that some are more effective. And some perhaps.... I'm