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tactic. It's a matter of just reality. With that, I know that I see Senator Bohlke has the opportunity to further enlighten us on the committee amendment. I'd be happy to answer some questions about it. There is a second amendment in the committee amendments that deals with contact hours as opposed to credit hours. I think that's a fairly routine amendment and one that the committee should...or that the body shouldn't have any problem with at all. I'd be happy to answer any questions, Mr. President, and would ask for, obviously, the advancement of this, but certainly for the adoption of the committee amendment. Thank you.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Senator, there are committee amendments. Senator Bohlke. (AM0086 is found on page 518 of the Legislative Journal.)

SENATOR BOHLKE: Yes, Mr. President, members, the...I think Senator Kristensen has explained very well the situation at Western Community College. And this, also as he indicated, addresses a concern of the tribal community colleges by allowing them to count their contact hours as credit hours awarded. And, other than that, I think Senator Kristensen has done a good job of giving you the essence of the problems that this bill is addressing. Thank you.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Senator Smith, you are recognized to speak to the committee amendments.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, members. I just wanted to rise in support of this bill. I think it will level the playing field and I'm glad to see that the community college...colleges around the state are in support of this as well. So I think it's important to create this level playing field and keep the students in western Nebraska with the opportunity of community college, along with Chadron State College. But the community college is important to the community and actually the entire Panhandle, and I would urge your support. Thank you.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Any further discussion of the committee amendments? Senator Bohlke, there are no further lights. Do you wish to close on the committee amendments? Senator Bohlke