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encourage people to invest their own self... You know, interestingly enough, and I didn't say this earlier, but with all of these grants that are allocated, a huge amount more than the grant was raised or furnished by the local communities who became involved in this. It's sort of saying we believe in you, you can believe in us, and put your own money up if you really believe in what you're telling us you need to do. That's one of the real merits of this bill was the amount of money that was generated in the local communities to carry out the programs, that they thought were important, with just a little assistance from the state. And the same thing holds true with Senator Kiel's amendment to this bill. It's a case of whether you want to make an investment in the future of the state and do the things that we think will make Nebraska the good life that we always talk about. Sure, it costs money, and nobody is going to deny that. It's a case again of putting your priorities in proper perspective and spending money where you think, in fact, it will get you the most bang for the buck. So, with that, I again support the Kiel amendment, and would ask for its advancement and also the bill itself. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**SPEAKER KRISTENSEN:** Senator Don Pederson.

**SENATOR D. PEDERSON:** Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I join the other members of the Appropriations Committee that have spoken on this matter. We kind of sound like the Grinch that stole Christmas. But, if you have...you have to put yourself in our position and from our perspective. And we see, on the Appropriations Committee, hundreds, literally hundreds of worthwhile proposals. But we have to draw the hard line and say, this we can do, this we really can't do. Now Senator Kiel's amendment was presented to the Appropriations Committee last year, and we had an extensive discussion of the same issue, and the Appropriations Committee declining to advance that proposal at that time. I don't think the situation has changed any in that regard. And I think when you look in the areas of priorities, there are things that people need to do for themselves and there are things that the state needs to do for them. The things that were described by Senator Kiel, of cleaning up the neighborhood and so forth, frankly, and in my opinion, is something that the neighborhood should do for itself. It should not be turning to what you might say big