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program is excellent and nobody can argue that. The fire service has been upgraded in the last ten years in unbelievable levels so that there is absolute safety of lives and property which is a state function, absolute safety in terms of increased safety in lives and property throughout the state. The program needs to continue. The program is settled down in terms of where it is and the level of funding. In my judgment this is the best money that we spend in the State of Nebraska and I urge you to adopt my amendment.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Clark.

SENATOR CLARK: Mr. Speaker and members, I certainly also support this amendment. I don't know whether Senator Beutler realizes this or not, but this service as provided by the state is a highly specialized service to these volunteer fire departments. They go out and the volunteer firemen take their time one day a week or two days a week as long as that fire service is in town. When they leave town they are all that practicing what they have been instructed to do, and I don't think this is a great cost but I think it is a great service and I certainly appreciate the state doing this for all these volunteer firemen. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The Chair recognizes Senator Lewis first for an announcement and then we will go back to Senator Maresh, Wagner and Kelly. Senator Lewis.

SENATOR LEWIS: Mr. Speaker, I won't close again. We do have a problem in terms of the weather, and the Governor has dismissed all other state employees. I am asking that the division heads dismiss their employees at their discretion and I am asking that each member that wants to dismiss their employees at this time would do so, but that will be between the employees of either the committee, chairman or the employees of the individuals in terms of whether they wish to dismiss them. So if you want to do that and proceed in that fashion, that is exactly the way we will do it.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Maresh, we are on the Lewis amendment.

SENATOR MARESH: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, I, too, support the Lewis amendment. I think something we need to consider is that the good firefighting reduces insurance rates and this is something that affects the whole