

\$12,000. The number of diplomas have also gone up dramatically in the last few years because of the higher rate of dropouts in the high schools, part of this being due to some of the economic problems that some of the young people find themselves in, many other problems that I don't think we need to really discuss at this point in time but it is imperative I believe that this Legislature recognize the importance of providing this service to those individuals that do find themselves in a position that they cannot get their high school diploma through the regular course. So I have lowered the amount from \$10,000 to \$7,500. I am told that this is the bare bones minimum that we'll require to keep the program going and keep it alive and I urge this body's adoption of spending \$7,500 for, which is not a large sum of money when you consider the entire budget that we are dealing with here but it is a sum that could be brought back in, returned, many times over because of the large need and the benefits from this program. So I urge this body's adoption of this amendment for an additional \$7,500 to the Adult Basic Education Program.

SENATOR CLARK PRESIDING

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Koch. Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I would rise to oppose the amendment. I appreciate the sincerity in which Senator Vickers offers it. I will only say this. One of the problems that always confronts us is information, I guess, and what something does or really does not do. I would only state this, that the Director of that particular program I ran into as I walked into the State Capitol the day before the appropriations were taken up on Select File. He told me as I walked in that they were \$1,500 short from the original budget for salaries to maintain the program and to maintain their people, and I offered the amendment in which we went back and checked and the committee did offer an amendment that added \$2,500 and something, \$2,547, I think, or thereabouts because there was a calculation that was not correct on salaries and that adjustment was made even though the Director only thought it was \$1,500. So notwithstanding what might have been said by the Director to any member of the Legislature, it is my opinion based on what he said to me that the budget is adequate for maintaining the program as it is, both in personal services, people, and operate a program. It is true that we did not recommend expansion and they did request a \$65,000 expansion in that program and it, like all other programs, there may have been