

trained people in the future in agriculture. By the same token, we've got a lot of people right now who, because of the economic conditions that are going on, are having to leave their occupation that they've had all their lives. They are having to take up different occupations. And, quite frankly, they are not prepared for it. These monies are designed to make that transition not only a little bit less painful, but also make it so that it is a little more effective, that it can be done at the least possible personal cost and probably to the least cost...to the government because most of these people would like to be able to work, would like to be able to not be in a position where they would have to have the assistance of their government. As I indicated, on General File, there is no way you can make this transition so that it is painless. But it seems to me that it is incumbent on us to try to make it as painless as possible. So I think that if we can do anything we do with our resources, and I admit I understand our difficulties economically, but if we can come up with ways to expend those resources, to help people in their times of need, it seems to me that is what government is all about. Again, I can only tell you that that time of need is pretty serious. The Governor and some other folks were rather surprised at the economic conditions of the state as reported. It didn't come as any surprise to most of us that live out in greater Nebraska, didn't come as any surprise to those of us who are seeing our neighbors put up sale signs and leave them, or being those people who are in this transitional period. And it seems to me that with this amount of money we could help make that a little easier. I would hope that you would agree with me and adopt this amendment to do that. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Warner, please, then Senator Barrett.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, again this was a program that was initiated with \$1 million of federal funds grant. Those monies go away. The request was originally for I guess as much General Fund money as, up to \$1 million, that was possible. The committee recommended no reinstatement of General Fund money to take the place of the federal funds. Again, I'm not going to stand here and argue the program as being bad because it is not. But, folks, you don't have the money. As I listened this morning there were numerous speeches made about how we were not going to change tax rates, or how we need to run with minimal reserve I read, in the last day or so, to avoid a tax rate increase, and you just can't keep appropriating money and do that. So my only word of caution is