

time, I think that we have to recognize that it is not a high priority from my standpoint; it may be from others, but it is not from my standpoint. I understand that there are a number of programs that are going to have to be cut, and cut severely, and I think that is true across the board. I've had a number of meetings in my district with constituents, virtually without exception they tell me that the Legislature should not start new programs, you should, in fact, terminate some existing ones, and that we ought to take care of our responsibilities first, before we take care of our wants. And I guess that as of this time, Senator Beutler, I really can't support the bill. I'm going to listen to it with interest and see if there might be some other way to accomplish that which you want to accomplish.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Schmit. Senator Ashford.

SENATOR ASHFORD: Thank you, Madam President. I rise in support of LB 714 and maybe a couple of comments in response to Senator Schmit's points, which are excellent points and points that need to be debated. The games...even though the project, which is called for in this legislation, is a new program by definition, it is something that the state does not now do. It does have projects which are very similar to this. And also it is consistent, certainly, with the mission of the Games and Parks Commission and some of the projects that they have undertaken across the State of Nebraska. It is not as if we were starting a totally new program that is totally different from, or a new avenue of...that we would be pursuing that the state has not pursued in the past. We are, I would suggest, amplifying on what we are already doing, albeit a new program, in the sense that it is not now something specifically that the state is doing. So, in that....Senator Schmit raised a good point, though I think a good argument could be made that we are really amplifying existing...the existing mission of the Games and Parks Commission in a manner which is consistent with what they are already doing. Secondly, I think this is one of those programs where we can get quite a good punch for the amount of money that we are intending to spend here. The \$100,000, I think, can result in programs which have a value to our state, far in excess of the \$100,000. These are the kinds of programs which can be utilized by subdivisions throughout the state and in cooperative agreements. Other funds will be contributed to these projects by private sources, as well as by local sources. And across the state we have very limited resources in our political subdivisions. I know in Omaha we've worked hard at