

good program and there were 3,000 students served one day. The cost was \$40,600 of what about 20,600 of that was in kind. The program is so good that they had 85 schools participate and they turned away over 4,000 students requesting. They have to draw numbers now. We had another good group of kids that came in, the Nebraska Conference of Youth, 550 kids. Their budget is for three days, \$31,727. They raise their own money and it usually runs from 30 to \$35,000. We have Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, we have many, many programs in the state without our funding a program like this and I think that the taxpayers have given us the message that it's time that you senators readdress your priorities and I found this one, I simply just could not justify. You can go down through the list of speakers and a list of good speakers, but \$4,000 or 4,200 the head facilitator from Oklahoma, also 500 and some odd dollars then for his transportation and week's stay and it just seemed to me like that this program got entirely out of hand. No one is going to say anything about the students at risk or so on, but for only 67 students and we have programs. Senator Stevens had a good one to retain teachers. We have 180,000 we need for child support. Senator Haberman had one, 24 doctors to receive some help in education. The Midwestern Higher Education Compact, we have them right down the list. As I said in Judiciary, 180,000 program...

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR NELSON: ...we simply can't fund. The Crisis Center we don't have enough money to fund and I think that we need to reassess our priorities and with that I would ask for the support of my amendment. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Nelson. Before we begin debate on this amendment, I'd like to direct the senators' attention to the south balcony. Special guests today of Senators Coordsen and Byars are 90 fourth graders from Jefferson School in Fairbury, Nebraska, and they are accompanied by their teachers. Would you please rise and be recognized and welcome to the Chambers today. Also seated under the south balcony as a guest of Senator Bernard-Stevens, he is Joe Rayford of North Platte High. Would you please rise and be recognized. Thank you. The speaking order now is Senator Smith, Hefner, Crosby, Hall, Schrock, Schimek, Bernard-Stevens and Robak. Senator Smith.