

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator Nelson.

SENATOR NELSON: Madam Speaker, to answer maybe some of the concerns, I don't think that anyone is blaming the students. The students are not to blame. If it is offered to you, only last year only 58 of them even chose to participate, so that if there was such a great interest and the senators really supported it they would have returned their nominations, they would have cooperated, and I think that tells you in itself the senators see that this is a program that is not necessarily justified or that we should be operating. We have many programs in schools, we have, as I say the Water Conference, the Youth Council, our schools, I think recognize this. I don't know how anyone of us could ever pick out two students at risk. Yes, Senator Hefner, I did go over mine. That's hows come I turned down the first one and one of them happened to be my newspaper boy or helped deliver papers at two o'clock in the morning, the World-Herald. He didn't ever call, his mother called and thanked me. So I called back and asked them, they have never contacted me personally, but I think I did do my homework on it and maybe I was watching for it a little bit more but I just simply want to tell you folks that, sure, every program we have down here there is some justification, some good for it. How much longer can we just say that is okay? The Legislature is not a watcher or a keeper of the budget. I can see retraining teachers, Senator Stevens had one, a \$135,000 last year. How much more good that would have done for our students in school to have had our teachers maybe brought up to snuff and then they could have taken it back to these students. Back to the first student I mentioned, that tells you how well the schools understood it. I have no problem with the Legislative Research, they tried to do the best they could. And I even saw the criteria that they sent out. I have no problem with that whatsoever, none whatsoever with our staff. We are the ones that authorized it, we are the ones that made a mistake, sounds big, sounds like we did an awfully lot and I can't help what newspaper editorials write sometimes. Someone can make a remark or something, but I don't believe that we are reaching enough kids for the amount of dollars that we are talking about. So from there, if anyone else has any questions, I will say that if the bill should move to Select File I will probably be offering an amendment that it moves to the Education Department. That is where it really belongs instead of our own Legislative Research Department. But, my taxpayers and the World-Herald, we ask the