

(Nelson amendment appears on page 1363 of the Journal.)

PRESIDENT: Senator Nelson, please.

SENATOR NELSON: Yes. This was a bill or an amendment to fund the adult literacy program. It's M2468, and I did make a request of this to the Appropriations Committee. And, as you may guess, it was turned down by the Appropriations Committee. This is something that I don't think we actually get a better dollar amount returned on our dollar than this program. What this program does is it addresses four different areas of basic education, adult literacy education. And it is a program that is needed. It's the volunteers that coordinate the volunteers and help these people. This basic adult....

PRESIDENT: (Cavel.) Could we have it a little quieter, please, so....

SENATOR NELSON: Thank you, thank you, Mr. Speaker. The basic education for these eighth grade students is part of it, English as a second language for residents wishing to learn to speak, read and write English, the G.E.D. program, and, as you know, a young fellow or a young lady cannot even enter the Army without a G.E.D. degree, and adult living skills. In Nebraska we have, I believe, nine different G.E.D. programs...or nine different adult literacy programs. I am most familiar with the one at Grand Island, Nebraska. In Grand Island, we have 50 active volunteers on a weekly basis, and these volunteers are all ages, from about 18 to 80 years of age. These girls are allowed to work about one day a week, it could be in Grand Island, it could be in Norfolk, Nebraska, North Platte, Nebraska, or in about any location. In Grand Island, the girl is allowed 10 hours a week to coordinate the volunteers. If you don't keep the volunteers coordinated, or if you don't give them some assistance, even though you get a program started, that program will probably lapse. There are programs being provided all over the state, Alliance, Nebraska; Beatrice, Nebraska; Bellevue, Blair, Crete, Fall City, Fremont, Grand Island, covers 25 counties through Central Community College, actually 27 all-volunteer programs. What I am asking for is these programs cannot continue. On the national level adult literacy has become, people have become more aware. In 1986, the number served, volunteer hours increased from 32,717 hours to 50,978 hours. Basically, it is no additional money over to the State Department of Education, it is simply just asking for more help to coordinate the