

to our next speaker, we'd like to recognize some guests of Senator Lindsay. Under the south balcony, we have John Hilgert, recently returned from Operation Desert Storm and Father Kelligar of Omaha. Would you folks please rise and be welcomed to the Legislature. Thank you for coming today. Our next speaker is Senator Hefner followed by Senators Robinson, Chambers, Schrock, Nelson and Smith. Senator Hefner.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President and members of the body, I appreciate all the testimony that has been given and, Senator Chambers, I'm happy to see that you're seeing the light in this. But I can't tell you whether 15,000 or 20,000 or 30,000 dollars is the right amount. However, I do believe that 70,000 is too much money. Just let me tell you how I arrived at the 15,000. I took the average cost of what it takes to send a student to Boys State and then I divided that in and I came up with around \$150 per person, but it's true, this does not include the transportation cost and, Senator Chambers, I think this is a good idea. I think in this type of program we should be paying the transportation cost. So I'm going to support your amendment, but I think it's time for us to realize that we need to help these young and underprivileged students that we have in our state. I wish we could afford to bring more of them in, but at least bringing two from each legislative district gives us a chance, gives them a chance. I know especially one from my district, that it was a turning point for this student, whereas if we didn't have this program, this student wouldn't have had this opportunity, and so I think we ought to keep on with it. And, Senator Nelson, I know that you're opposed to this. I would suggest that if you want to add a sunset on in three or four years and that way we'll get a chance to evaluate it again and I wouldn't say this is necessarily just for poor people. This is for those underprivileged students that we have out there. If each senator chooses two from his legislative district, that means 98 and I realize 98 students won't be there. It's just like this Legislature. We hardly ever see 49 senators here. A lot of times there is only 38 or 40 and sometimes 44. I'm sure that not all of them are going to be able to attend, but I think we ought to encourage them. I don't think that one year's time for a program is the necessary time to evaluate this program. I'd say let's give this program a chance. It's a good program I believe, if it's operated correctly, and that is certainly our responsibility here to see that it is operated good, but just give the program a chance. I hope that you support Senator Chambers' amendment.