

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was beginning to wonder who was supposed to take the first step, but Mr. Clerk rallied to the cause. Members of the body, this resolution basically recognizes a couple of points. The first point it recognizes certainly is the need for economics education in the State of Nebraska but look particularly to our young people and also particularly to the faculty members in the...our high schools so that they become as knowledgeable not only in economics, but in teaching methods of economics because one of the things that we found is that many of our students, in fact a majority of our students, are graduating with very, very little or certainly inadequate economic background. And in order to be competitive not only businesswise, but in their lives in the future, these students obviously need to have much more of economic background, not just of how to count money and to do all the basic things of what used to be called consumer economics, but the higher level thinking skills of real economic issues versus supply and demand, all the micro, macro economic issues and so on that will be so important to them in their economic survival in the future. The National Science Foundation offered the second reason for the resolution. They awarded the Nebraska Council on Economics Education in the University of Nebraska at Lincoln a grant for \$750,000 and this particular grant will conduct, be able for us to conduct a three-year Nebraska's Economics Fellows Institute for Secondary Teachers which will prepare 35 of our state's most outstanding teachers to help other teachers learn the skills in order to teach their students about economics and the market system. This resolution is simply recognizing that fact, recognizing the tremendous need that will be met or begin to be met by the institution of this grant. It goes on, the resolution goes on to name specifically the 35 teachers that have been chosen to be recipients of the institute to the fellowship and this is a three-year commitment for the teachers that will be participating. They will end up not only with a masters degree in economics education, but also be able and part of this institute is to go out and bring in other teachers to give them their information that they have been taught so that it's not just those teachers, these 35, that will have the economics background but other teachers as well through seminars so that we can begin economics education more thoroughly K-12 in the State of Nebraska. And the final part of the resolution is that the Legislature extends its congratulations to the Nebraska Council on Economic Education and the University of Nebraska for winning the award and for the state and each of the teachers for