

I understand it, since the GED program is a state program, federal dollars cannot be used to operate that state program other than a certain percentage, and without the additional funds in the state program there will have to be reduction in the staff of one to one and a half persons. Now this is not an increase in staffing for the GED program that this \$10,000 is going for. Obviously, there is I think the 9 percent salary increase figured in, but with that increase there is not enough funds to keep the program operating as it is operating at the present time. I am also told that as these people apply for and pass their test for their diplomas, right now they have to wait for quite some time to get the diplomas processed to get them out to them. If we reduce the number of staff people and there is a small staff over there right now, it will, in effect, kill the program and put it in a situation where the federal dollars will not be able to be used in any advantageous fashion at all in this state as far as Adult Education is concerned. Now, Mr. President, I would...with your permission, I would like to give the remainder of my time in closing to Senator Koch.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The Chair recognizes Senator Koch.

SENATOR KOCH: Thank you, Senator Vickers. Well, some days I disagree with the Chairman of the Appropriations Committee, but this is not for an expansion of programs, it's merely trying to carry on programs where there is a considerable demand. I don't know how many of you people have ever attended one of these programs on Adult and Continuing Education, but whether you know it or not there are a great number of people in this state now who are desirous of continuing their education because of the technologies which are needed today for a proper job and for skill. A year ago I offered a similar amendment for \$60,000 and it was defeated. I don't think we are going to for \$10,000 expand a program a great deal, and all we are trying to do is maintain the program based upon demand of adults who had to stop their education at some point in time. I support Senator Vickers for this what I think is a rather miserly sum of money. A moment ago we talked about probation officers and the need for that, but I can assure you that if we want every adult in this state to achieve an optimal level of job skills, then \$10,000 is wisely invested in terms of the returns. And oftentimes for a few bucks we are not willing to invest it to make many dollars in terms of what the tax results might be. And I would hope that you would support the amendment offered by Senator Vickers for a miserly \$10,000 to help carry out the intent and purpose of Adult and Continuing Education.