

find that kind of response to the bill, I think that probably the Appropriations Committee would consider it a worthwhile expenditure of funds to preserve a small part of our native grasslands. Other than that, Mr. President, I think we've discussed the bill in some detail and I think you understand the nature of the bill. I really did not think it was that momentous a bill, but I am, nonetheless, happy to explain it to you because I do have a particular fondness for Nebraska grasslands and our grassland and prairie heritage and I think that certainly whatever we can do in this very modest manner to encourage the preservation of such grasslands is a small step in the right direction. I'll be glad to answer any other questions.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Pirsch, followed by Senator Warner and Coordsen.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Thank you. I'm glad Senator Warner is following me because he might want to follow up and answer some of my questions regarding the budget. It does say that this bill appears to be nearly identical to the natural heritage program which the Games and Parks Commission has been funding jointly with nature conservatory. I am a member of the nature conservatory and we have a portion of the virgin prairie on our farm, so I am very much in favor of continuing this kind of practice. However, I am curious as to whether this would be a new appropriation. According to this it says the commission has requested for FY '90 and FY '91 the addition of three full-time positions plus operating expenses to continue the inventory of these natural areas, and I guess what I would like to ask Senator Warner if he would answer or respond in his next speaking whether indeed that will be a part of the Games and Parks budget appropriation. With that, Senator Warner, did you hear me? Okay. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Warner, please.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, again, my comments at this point is essentially for information I think, Senator Schmit, and deals around the issue of an A bill. In the request from the... as has been indicated from the Game and Parks Commission is what is designated as an expansion request which in effect I believe would retain three full-time or establish three full-time positions for a natural heritage program. And the similarity, at least in the language