

Rogers.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Mr. President, members, I guess I will not be quite as kind in my comments to Senator Moore as Senator Coordsen was, but it never ceases to amaze me as we stand and sit on this floor that we talk about bills that are of importance and this bill, quite frankly, in the order of importance to the State of Nebraska and to the work that we have to do here today and this session, is limited, granted. But you know, we lose our perspective at times on issues like this because, quite honestly, a couple of days ago we advanced a bill, LB 209, that was dealing with access charges that the State of Nebraska is going to lose some 15, \$20 million. We're talking about \$80,000 here. Now if you don't like the program or you don't think that the program is necessary then I agree, don't vote for the program. But to try and maneuver the program into an area that...or to ruin the program on the basis of amendments, to me, is ludicrous. And, you know, we'll spend probably more time arguing this particular proposal of \$80,000 than we spent with a \$20 million proposal on LB 209. And it is, like I said, we lose perspective, but, to me, we live in a global society, we have to communicate in that society and this individual would be something that a person or an agency that would help us work with visitors from across the country and around the world. Now whether we want to move ahead in this state and recognize the importance of something along this line, then I suggest the body vote for the bill. If you don't want to, that's fine. If you feel it is an unnecessary program, another layer of bureaucracy that the State of Nebraska cannot afford \$80,000, then vote against the bill. I can accept that argument, but our visitors that come to this state are not solely coming here for the purpose of agricultural commodities. We have visitors that visit us for our education, for our technology, for a number of other reasons and to lay the burden of paying for a Protocol Officer on fees or funds or contributions from other sources, again, is ludicrous and I guess I would prefer if you like the bill, vote for it; if you don't like the bill, don't vote for it. But, as I said, this is probably not something that is going to go down in the annals of history that we passed an \$80,000 proposal to set up a Protocol Officer in this state, but, in any case, I support the bill. I oppose Senator Moore's attempt to amend the bill and I hope that the body will move on with other work to do today.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Rogers, please, followed by