

should help pay for it, has to come from someplace else, everybody should pay for it. Then the second amendment that would have allowed the Department of Economic Development or the Cornhusker Hotel or Ameritus or FirstTier to give money to this program to make it work, we said, no, no, no, we don't even want that money. We want this program, it's such a good idea, the only way it should be funded is through new General Fund appropriations and that, you know, I am not against the intent of this bill. I think we're right, we do need to give those people some gifts when they come. We do need to dress right when they come. But I don't think we have to spend new money to make it work. As I've said, those commodity boards have about three or four million dollars. The Department of Economic Development has 4.5 million dollars in its budget. But this body says, no, no, no, we're not going to spend any of that existing money that the state collects. The only way...this is a good idea, but it's not good enough for either one of those to pay for. It's only a good enough idea if some new tax dollars are appropriated for it, and I guess I just don't buy that. I don't think that we have to spend new dollars on this, \$80,000 this year. It's going to grow. I mean, I don't know what Senator McFarland has in mind to give these people, and I don't know how many visitors come to the state every year, but if you're going to give them anything of value, as many people that do come, I think it's just a matter of time that that \$80,000 figure grows. For making a mistake by starting to fund this, I think we were...I presented some legitimate options where you could accomplish all the good things this bill was intended to do. But you could do it with existing fund sources. This body has said no to that, unfortunately. I would hope that now they'd have the good sense to vote this bill...keep this bill from advancing. As the Governor mentioned...when we heard this bill the Governor's office, this Governor is going to do something in this area, whether or not we pass this bill, and we don't need this bill to do it, and we sure don't need to spend \$80,000 to do it. With that, I'd urge for the body to decline advancing this bill.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Dierks, please.

SENATOR DIERKS: (Response inaudible.)

PRESIDENT: The question has been called. Do I see five hands? I do. The question is, shall debate cease? All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay.