

a fantastic experience it is. I think that this would allow not only...

PRESIDENT: Excuse me, Senator Schimek. I'm sorry to interrupt you. (Gavel.) Could we please have it quiet, we're having trouble hearing the speaker. Thank you, Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you. I think that this bill would allow not only students to benefit from this exchange program, but that it would allow the families and the communities also to benefit from this exchange. I hope that every member of this body will vote to advance this bill. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Moore, please, followed by Senator McFarland.

SENATOR MOORE: Mr. President and members, I'm like Senator Schimek, can't really find any reason for me to speak, because I think most people will be for this. But I did just want to get up and give some of my own accolades on what a wise idea I, personally, think this is. I mean, the more we can do to get people in high school involved in the legislative process at a younger age, the better off we are. I speak, I guess, maybe from my own personal experience here. In high school I was involved in the Nebraska Council of Youth, Youth Government Day across the hall, eventually became a Page here, served there for a year, then worked my way up through the ranks and eventually got elected. The only drawback is, if you do this, you may create more obnoxious young senators like me. But I think it would be money well spent to do that.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator McFarland, you're next, but may I introduce a guest, please. (Gavel.) May I introduce a guest, please, under the south balcony, Senator Richard Maresh, a former member of this body. Would you welcome him. Good to see you, Senator Maresh. Senator McFarland, please.

SENATOR MCFARLAND: Thank you, Mr. President. I was going to say to Senator Schimek, don't ever be surprised when someone opposes a bill if it costs a little money. But I see this bill is so good even Senator Moore is for it, so we've got high hopes for this one. It would be...the investment for this bill would be money well spent. I think...I've always thought that the greatest resource we have in our state is the students in our state, and the quality of students we have and the quality of