

that's at least doubled, so let's go back and think 2 million maximum or something like that and I would doubt that even that many would use it. But here we are, \$121,000 next year to implement 225,000 the next year and the idea has merit, maybe my parents would give to my kids or the grandkids and so on but, as I say, I want all of you to kind of realize what you're voting on on this bill and I feel so guilty in even speaking out about it, but I felt rather...last year, I just had a lot of problems with it and I've really not changed my mind a lot this year. And I know the bill is important to Senator Chizek so I will let the rest of you make your mind up and push your button like you want to, but I wish...it's just not a bill that is simple to implement and the benefits are very little and it does not help the truly poor or the truly needy. You have to have that money to put away in hopes of saving a very, very minimal amount and the amount of money to administer it is, in some cases, far more than whatever the gains would be.

PRESIDENT: Senator McFarland, please, followed by Senator Smith.

SENATOR MCFARLAND: Thank you, Mr. President. Like the senators that preceded me, I rise with some apprehension in expressing my reservations about the bill since Senator Chizek is not here. My apprehension has only increased knowing that he may be watching but, nevertheless, I shall try to make my points. I was not there, unfortunately, when this bill was voted out of committee, but I wanted to relate to you the discussion that occurred last year when Senator Chizek introduced LB 860 which was a very similar bill to our committee. He made a very eloquent presentation to our committee about how money could be set aside, that people would plan for their sons' and daughters' education by setting money aside. We ought to encourage this, we ought to give some kind of tax deduction for it and that the effect of it would be that it would encourage middle income people to put their money aside in these accounts so that their children have money for their education, and that by providing tax benefits for this procedure we would be encouraging it. So I was fully ready to support and vote in favor of the bill. It seemed like an excellent idea. I thought it was a good one and he had presented it well, but then when we got into Exec Session Senator Johnson was on the Education Committee and he brought up a very interesting point and his point was that similar types of legislation have been passed in the...on the federal level, not directly identical to this, of course, but the concept has been