

legislators, hiring their own investigators, be able to uncover evidence which, as we were told time and time and again and on the streets of Omaha, everybody knows, unquote. It is apparent to me that the system of government has broken down.

SENATOR R. PETERSON: Senator Schmit, do you actually need 200,000. Would 100,000 do you for now till we get these final reports back?

SENATOR SCHMIT: Senator, let me tell you this. I don't have any doubt that at this time there are hundreds if not thousands of times as much money being spent to contain this investigation than I am asking for in this resolution. I don't know whether 100,000 would be enough. I am telling you that right now we are asking for 200,000, Senator, and I think the money is going to be needed. And I might also add that I think there might be a need for more money.

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR R. PETERSON: Well, thank you, Senator Schmit, for enlightening me a little bit. I am...I can see what you are doing and I commend you for that, but at this point I have got reservations like Senator Crosby and Senator Schellpeper whether we really need that much right at this time, so I don't know what I am going to do, but thank you anyway.

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

SENATOR MCFARLAND: Thank you, Mr. President. As someone who was a former member of the committee, I have some background on this issue, although certainly in the past recent months I have not been familiar or privy to the information that the other committee members have been knowledgeable about. Nevertheless, I would recommend that the resolution be approved and that the appropriate money be set aside for the committee. It seemed to me in the initial investigation, and I read through all of the initial reports that it became readily apparent that the foster care system in our state is not working adequately. There are just far too many children who are shifted from home to home who are not supervised by their counselors and their persons assigned to supervise their work. The people in state government who are supposed to be carrying out these functions do not have enough staff to do an adequate job. The people that