

this and we still have to come up with these kinds of millions of new dollars, new beds, new facilities to house the criminals that we're producing in Nebraska, it makes me wonder how valuable or successful the programs that we're providing in many of our areas are. Now, that I've made my little speech on that and I've vented that frustration, I will just get back and ask you and tell you that if you would...if you will keep in mind the four points that they're trying to cover and the reasons why they feel it's so needed, is to remind you that this additional amount of dollars, 255,000 that I'm asking for, is not asking for new services, new increases. It's not even asking you to fund what we in 1982 in this body said we were going to do. It's just asking you to give them the additional amount of money so that they can at least meet the wage increases that they're going to have to give their employees out there. Without this additional amount, services benefiting over 60,000 older Nebraskans, many of them, in fact, most of over 75, and, by the way, who do not have the strongest voices in here, are going to be the recipients of the negative effects. I want to emphasize that the 255,000 increase I am asking for will only maintain current level of services. It will not create new ones. I ask your support for what I consider to be one of the most valuable amendments that we can attach to this appropriations bill. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Labeledz, please, followed by Senator Scofield.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Thank you, Mr. President. Senator Smith did such a magnificent job in speaking for the elderly that it's almost impossible for me to stand here at the microphone and come up with anything different. Being a 70-year-old senior citizen myself, and I'm very proud of my age, I am in contact constantly, especially in south Omaha where we have a lot of low income elderly that participate in the senior citizen center and more than unusual in south Omaha do require meals on wheels and everything that Senator Smith said in her very forceful way is absolutely correct. The Community Action Service Act that was enacted in 1982 works very well and those communities that were able to get seed money from CASA, only half of the state funding necessary is actually being provided and I think Senator Smith alluded to that. But I can't believe that the state's contribution to an \$18 million program is only 1.55 million. The Federal Older American Act, as she...I don't know if she mentioned this or not, but a cutback of \$107,000 for Nebraska