

I remember reading in Imperial, Nebraska, I believe, where three teachers took this on as their voluntary project and they are now teaching 60 people. Central City, Nebraska, a large Lutheran Church women took this on. Cozad, Nebraska; Ainsworth, Nebraska, and it is even Barbara Bush's priority, adult literacy. More and more people are becoming aware. This is groups of people that simply volunteer. It is 97 to 98 percent volunteer, and what this is is through the Library Commission, they agreed to handle the funding. They came in and asked for \$12,000, to Senator Withem and I, if we could please help them in getting funding. Then after doing a little bit of research and a little bit of work, I, myself, became very confident that I could probably raise \$6,000 and, with Senator Withem, I am sure we can. So we said to the Appropriations Committee, they were going to ask for twelve, give us \$6,000, and personally I will go out and try to raise the other \$6,000, and I will have to tell you that the response and the ones that I have asked has been 100 percent. It is, basically, volunteers. I don't know of any other way that you can get your better use of the money and these are people that need to read, learn. For example, we have the Laotians. Lexington, Nebraska, I am sure, will have a lot of Hispanics coming in. These are people that need to be able to read to get their driver's license, to even read food labels, and even to be able to work. You may be a very good worker but you honestly can't even read the directions and so on. It also...they help with the GED program and they also help with adult living skills. The unemployed in Nebraska, approximately 22 percent do not have a high school education. Seventy-five percent of all the correctional system inmates do not have a high school education. This is to bring volunteers together and to help the volunteers to get them, again, familiar with the program and to go out to get more volunteers. The need is very, very great. So what I am doing is asking for \$6,000. I know...and the Governor said it should be directed to programs. That is not how it works. If all the money was directed to one or two schools, or one or two communities for a program, that doesn't cover the need. This is simply to help the volunteers that give so much of their time to help people that simply cannot read for one reason or another, and they do need that extra encouragement to read. So what I am asking for is \$6,000, and as I say, I have not in a matter of time got it in writing, but everyone that I have asked for help in the corporate and so on have agreed to help me out on the other \$6,000. So I am not coming in asking for a lot of money, but these are people that are really in need and, again, they are