

Nebraska Conference of Youth, Boys State, Girls State, all those kinds of groups do these kinds of things and they can do it much more cheaply than what we put the money out to do for 67 young people. So I guess where I'm at on this is, yes, we want to do what we can to help the young people of the state, but maybe we can be doing that in some other ways and we can certainly be doing it much more conservatively than was done last year. And if this is an example of how we spend the taxpayers' dollars in Nebraska, no wonder we have a state full of mad people. So we made a mistake. Let's correct it instead of saying, well, yeah, it was our fault, we didn't have oversight. We should be able to trust people that we give taxpayer dollars with to spend and to spend it in the manner that they can most efficiently spend it to do the most good. And I don't think they did that. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Smith. Senator Robak.

SENATOR ROBAK: Thank you, Madam President and members of the body, I rise to support Senator Nelson's amendment to LB 843. I also serve on the Government Committee and I did hear LB 542 which was Senator Nelson's original bill to eliminate the Youth Leadership Academy and I think she had a very strong case as to why we should adopt this amendment. At the hearing on LB 542, two young gentlemen from the Nebraska Conference of Youth appeared to provide information on their programs in terms of cost and context and my conclusion after listening to these two young gentlemen was that they provide a similar function to more youth per year at far less money than the academy spent last year, and that their approach is more effective than that of the Youth Leadership Academy. And they have an organization that is not set in statute and I have a strong feeling about this being in statute which means that it is ongoing and ongoing and ongoing and as Senator Smith brought up about our fiscal budget this year, I think that's a strong question. Senator Schimek brought out that she didn't know about any other groups that addressed this type of youth, the NCY Conference attempts to deal with the real issues that youth face today. They face issues such as self-esteem, family communication, drugs, the need for leadership, development and so on and so forth and they had a three-day conference here in Lincoln for 500 youth at the University of Nebraska, 500 youth. The Nebraska Conference of Youth spent just under \$32,000 and compare that with the cost of the Youth Leadership Academy and that made up to a conference fee which comes from the registrant although they do work hard