

the program is worthwhile and it does serve a segment of our youth that right now do not have as many opportunities in this area to develop their leadership skills that others may otherwise have, and so I understand the concern for the oversight and I, too, agree that it probably was as much this body's error in not having proper oversight of a program such as this and that we should make that a real concern of ours that we do this. But I would hate to see it dropped at this stage because I think it has filled a niche and I will, therefore, be supporting Senator Hefner's bill when the time is appropriate. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Hefner, you're next.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President and members of the body, I don't want to take too long. I just think we have an opportunity here to continue this for a good cause. These are nongifted students. Certainly we have a lot of programs for the gifted students, for those that are in the upper brackets of their class, but what I've based my amendment on, the \$15,000 on, is the cost that the Nebraska Conference of Youth uses when they put on their three-day conference. That runs about \$80 per youth. Then also I checked with the American Legion on their Boys State program and they charge, I think their cost figure is about \$150 per youth for six days and that's what this youth conference runs, six days, so, and the American Legion tells me that this includes the housing, the meals and other miscellaneous cost. However, they do not use any paid speakers and we certainly do not have to use any paid speakers. We have certainly enough of our staff or even some of us senators ourselves could be speakers. So I just feel that we can do that for a little less than \$150 per youth. Now, Senator Hall talks about \$25,000 and that probably wouldn't be too bad, but I still think we could do it the first year for \$15,000. I realize you're not going to be able to house these kids in a Holiday Inn. I don't think we need to. I think with our state colleges located out in different sections of the state we could pick one state college one year, one state college the other year and we'd certainly pay them for the housing and the meals, but I believe we could do this. Also that way our state colleges would be able to show off their campuses. Once again, this is not for gifted students and I realize that last year we were having problems with our Research Department. We have a new director now and I haven't had the opportunity to talk to her yet, but I certainly will, but I think we can handle this for