

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Moore.

SENATOR MOORE: Pass.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Smith.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I was just having an interesting conversation here with Senator Bernard-Stevens in which he said he loves it, that we're standing here arguing about \$70,000 and we don't flick a finger when we talk about millions, but that's what we usually do. And, Senator Robinson, I would like to clarify something for you. I think you missed the conversation here if you didn't think we were saying each one of us that were talking said, yes, we need to do things for kids, but we don't need to spend \$103,000 for a few days in Kearney for 67 kids and then justify that. And also, I don't think that as a Legislature, just because we allocated the money and the money was spent on one-time shot, instead of using it throughout the year to help these kids on a continuing basis if it's so important, that we should take the heat or put it on ourselves. In this case I'm not willing to take the blame. We should be able to trust, when we give money to, we allocate money and we have those people in place to administer it that we can trust them to do the job the way it should be done. I'm not going to say we were to blame. We were not to blame. We had good intentions in this body. The intent was for the very reason that Senator Robinson talked about. It just didn't turn out that way and I want to remind you, we do have other things, not just for those kids that are in the highest categories. Senator Robak talked for five minutes about this other group which actually on their own have been able to, with those kinds of kids, 500 strong, would do all these things on an ongoing basis and make the money themselves to do it. They didn't rely on tax dollars to do it. That shows you, so-called "at risk" kids can do things for themselves if they're interested in doing it and they have the right kind of leadership. You're right on that. So what I'm saying is, I still believe that we needed to show, if we made a mistake and we're taking the blame for it now, some people in here are saying it's our fault, then let's correct it now. This is not a thing to continue. We can't justify doing this same kind of thing on an ongoing basis. I'm still supporting Senator Nelson's amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Nelson.