

This amendment by Senator Hefner is aimed at trying to help a group of youngsters who generally are overlooked until somebody is trying to figure a new crime to commit, a new crime to create by criminalizing conduct in which they will engage, by building more facilities in which to lock them up, streamlining procedures for arrest, conviction and detention. So what Senator Hefner is trying to do, and I hope we will support that effort, is to recognize these youngsters as human beings who are part of this society and entitled to some consideration from this Legislature which ordinarily gives so much time and expends so much money to help those in far less need of assistance. Since it does look like there might be a possibility of our doing a little justice this morning to the young people, I want us to have an amount of money which will make that feasible. My amendment would strike the \$15,000 in Senator Hefner's amendment and substitute 30,000, and the reason I'm doing this, Senator Hefner, I talked to the Director of Legislative Research and she made some comments with which I agree, namely, that transportation should be provided for because it would not be easy in terms of supervision to have some of these youngsters drive their own vehicles. So this amount would cover transporting them to the location. Many of them could not afford vehicles anyway or any other type of transportation. In addition to that, it would allow the retaining or obtaining of the services of an expert who knows how to deal with these types of youngsters who are at risk, could help formulate and construct a program that would be directed specifically for them and the benefits that we hope would come to them from this program. So if we were to have this program in place, taking place, Senator Hefner, at the University of Nebraska here in Lincoln, they would be housed there. We would pay for the transportation and the other things that Senator Hefner mentioned plus this individual who could assist the Department of Legislative Research or the division. In putting together a program, \$30,000 is the amount that probably would be needed; \$30,000 as we all know during the time we're considering the budget is not a great deal of money. That amount will be frittered away between programs and lost here and there. So for the amount of good that can be achieved with this relatively small expenditure of money, I think there is total justification for my amendment to Senator Hefner's amendment, then justification for the adoption of his amendment. I don't want to overstate how serious the problem is confronting the youngsters who are to be addressed by this program, but I live in the district which has been statistically established as the