

would suggest that two kids in any one of our districts that would attend this conference is not going to turn anything around. We don't have time, there's no follow-up, some of them may have shown potential leadership ability and others, it was simply a week put up in a motel for the motel experience. How in the world can you take two children of each district and say that they are qualified and they are so much different than another five or six, seven hundred in that same district? You cannot do that. And so this program sounds good, sounds big, but tell me what it accomplishes. There are other programs in the state that address the at risk kids at a much, much less cost. I think all of us, ignoring the fact maybe even that it was poorly run last year and was not what we had all hoped for, I will tell you, I visited with Legislative Research a few minutes ago and last week, and I'm not to cut anyone down or the leadership of the Legislative Research Department, but you simply cannot fund and run a program as we would anticipate and hope that would be run with that amount of money. And I do agree, transportation would have to be furnished. Think of it last year, there were 98 kids that were invited. Only 67 took advantage of it in the leadership conference last year. If we do not provide transportation, where is the legal liability of the state with kids, 100 cars running around Lincoln. Remember, these are kids that are not away from home. They're, so to say, sprouting their wings in the first time. Legislative Research did some background information on the program last year and I was advised that a good share of the personnel from that department was up there was to simply ride herd on these kids from eight o'clock in the morning till ten o'clock at night. Our Legislative Research Department, and I'm quoting, they do not have expertise in handling a group of children that are brought in like this and naturally they can put the program together, they would put the program together. Last year that is the reason for the \$4,200 for one week's pay for the gentleman from Oklahoma to put a program together to handle, and I don't think it's right to just say at risk kids. Well, what is at risk? No one can say what it is. Is it low income families? Is it the mental disabilities? Is it someone that has problems with actually behaving or so on? So we don't even actually know what at risk is. Program sounds good, sounds big, but that's about as far as we're going. As far as the editorial in the Lincoln paper, we all can work on editorials and so on.

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.