

been made on the floor have been very good today and it's very difficult to stand up here and sound as though you're the person that is not in support of helping young people "at risk" and we haven't determined what at risk means at this point in time I guess, but I think the point that I want to try to make is that, you know, the concept of the Youth Leadership Conference is a good one. The acadery, the whole idea is a good one. There are many proposals that are good ones that are brought to this body. The sorry fact of life is that we just don't have the dollars to do them all, and especially in this fiscal year when we're asking necessary programs and services for these, maybe some of these same kids, Senator Chambers, we're asking to cut programs. So we have to make the decisions in this body whether we like it or not because that's our job to make a choice. There are comparable programs that are out there for some of these same young people. One of them that was mentioned was the Nebraska Council of Youth which served 500 young people for, you know, just about the same amount of money as you're asking for in your amendment. So the bottom line is if we don't have the dollars, we can't do it all and so what are we going to do? We're going to do it just because we said we did it? Thirty thousand probably is not adequate and if you... what do you perceive would be provided for the \$30,000, an opportunity to go and stay somewhere for a few days? Is that going to turn their lives around? Do you believe that this is enough to make a change for these kids? If not, do you see a growth in the program next year, another growth the year after, and the year after, and the year after? That's what we all knows happens. We're talking here about, I know it's not the addition of one, but it has been eliminated at this point in time because it was not successful. That's our job and, again, I know Senator Schimek and I have a difference of opinion. I don't believe it's our fault, as a legislative body, that they spent the money unwisely. You know, we are thinking here on the floor for them, for these other adults who had the responsibility of spending this money for the taxpayers, for these young people that we're having a concern about. Why didn't they think, in fact, it's my understanding they were offered, they could have used the university, I guess it's called that now, but the state college at Kearney and turned it down. So I don't think it's our job to take the responsibility to say we gave them money to do something for young people, now it's our fault that they didn't do it right. We have to allocate these things for the people. That's not the point we're making here today. We're talking about, is \$30,000, I guess, for me right now the argument is, is \$30,000 enough to