

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Hefner. Before we proceed, I would like to introduce some guests of Senator Wickersham. We have nine members of the Box Butte Development Corporation and they're under the south balcony. Would you folks please stand and be welcomed by the Legislature. Thank you for being with us. We are experiencing some electrical difficulties up here but I do have the names of some of the speakers. I think, Senator Nelson, you are the first speaker.

SENATOR NELSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a couple questions of Senator Hefner. This is rather amusing to me. You know, if we added a nickel or a dime to a Dairy Queen kid that was out working or if we added an extra \$10 a week or \$10 a month to somebody on workers' comp, my goodness, we broke the budget. And now here we are, we're asking for \$60,000 and I somewhat wonder what he's going to go home and tell his taxpayers when we senators don't have nerve enough to bite the bullet and address the budget as we should address it. This program will go on. The Legislative Research Department told me they had no one with any expertise whatsoever to run this program. Basically, they look at it as somewhat riding herd over the kids for a week and it takes staff to watch them and so on and so forth. Remember, they've not been away from home on their own maybe before. Where do you think this expertise is going to come from?

SENATOR HEFNER: Senator Nelson, that's a good question and I'm glad that you asked that. But I...I'm sure that if this amendment gets adopted, the Exec Board will work with the Legislative Research Division and find that expertise.

SENATOR NELSON: I would...I would say that they would...could find it somewhere. Last year, I think they had to pay \$4,200 to bring someone in from Oklahoma, plus expenses for this expertise. My taxpayers don't like that very well at home and I'll bet yours don't either.

SENATOR HEFNER: Okay, Senator Nelson, but your amendment the other day didn't save that \$70,000. You didn't take it out of the...out of that budget.

SENATOR NELSON: No, give me time and I have to, it has to be a bill to take it out to kill it. That just took the Youth Leadership out of the Legislative Council. That, I...that, I