

it will be spent for purposes that no one on this floor can identify or justify and, in fact, it will go on, and on, and on. And if anyone believes that when you pay a water master four or five hundred thousand dollars a year that he is under any kind of compulsion to bring the problem to an end, then you've got to have less education than you get going to a country school in my territory because that feeds upon itself. I do not know the relative merits of the programs between UNL and Kearney. I do not propose to know. I think we've been very generous to all of them, but the fight between higher education, between elementary education and all the rest will continue on this floor. The facts are that most educators have got this Legislature by the short hair anyway and they get about what they want. But I guess I get tired of the sparring back and forth and, Senator Moore, I really am not impressed about the vigorous defense of the budget process insofar as a quarter of a million bucks for Kearney is concerned. I think that it's almost a moot point. I would come back again and offer an amendment to take that much money out of the Water Resources proposal for the attorneys if I thought it would do any good, but for some reason, I don't want to say the blind lead the blind, but for some reason when you lay out a program on this floor it seems almost impossible to change the direction and I think it's wrong. I think it's especially wrong when one, whether it's Senator Kristensen or whoever it is, proposes an amendment and the budget is defended as sacred. It's not sacred. It's up for grabs and we're going to thrash the taxpayer around here a long time. I think you and I know that we could take out, not 250,000, we could take 2.5 million, we could take 25 million out of that budget if we sat down and really put the screws to people and it would be a good thing to do. We could take more than that. The day's going to come when we have to do it. At this point in time, however, I defend the request of Senator Kristensen.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Schmit. Senator Robinson, followed by Senators Moore and Bernard-Stevens. Senator Robinscn.

SENATOR ROBINSON: Madam President, members of the body, I'd like to ask Senator Ashford a question.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator Ashford.

SENATOR ASHFORD: Yes.