

January 17, 1992 LB 542

CLERK: Madam President, Senators Hefner and Schimek would move to amend the bill.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator Hefner.

SENATOR HEFNER: Madam President and members of the Legislature, this amendment, or I should probably start out and say LB 542 does away with the Youth Leadership Academy and all the references to it. Well, what this amendment does, it scales it down quite a little. It strikes the original bill and inserts new sections. The first section amends a law stating that the academy shall be conducted under the direction of the Exec. Board and that the Exec. Board may appoint a committee up to three legislators to work with the Director of Research in overseeing administration and the expenses of the academy. It also states that the academy shall be held at a location determined by the Exec. Board. It is anticipated that the committee of legislators would come from the area of the state where the academy is held and that the Exec. Board would rotate it around the state over the year and I still believe that this is a program worth keeping. Senator Nelson mentioned the student from Grand Island. Well, I believe she had an opportunity to recommend two students from her district. Now maybe the student wasn't from her district, I don't know. But I want to refer back to the editorial that was in the Lincoln Journal last year, and Senator Nelson reported to that, but I just want to read part of it. "The true losers are the kids from the poor, difficult, contentious or even the average backgrounds for whom the leadership academy may have lighted a spark, may have been a turning point." Ladies and gentlemen, this is not for those students that are high grading, that are in the top part of their classes, are popular in high school, or those who attend boys or girls state, or some of the others that Senator Nelson mentioned, like the Council of Youth, and the Hugh O'Brien Seminar, and those. This tries to take care of those students that are at risk, and sometimes we need to help those students, too, because all of the students aren't those A students, or those popular students, but I feel that if we can just help a few of these in Nebraska that perhaps some of them will be leaders in the years to come. Last year, a little over \$25,000 was spent, I think that's very reasonable. But if you approve this, and I am on the Exec Board, I will try to get the Exec Board to go along with holding this in our different colleges, maybe one year at Wayne State, one year at Chadron,