

SENATOR HARTNETT: Madam Chairman, and members of the body, I signed onto this bill with Senator Nelson at the beginning, I think for the reason that maybe we're wasting money, but I don't think that is going to happen. I think I'd like to...I am kind of like Senator Schimek, I'd like to see it maybe one more year, see if it is better. And I did some checking back, I represent, basically, one school district. The administrators of the building threw the forms away, and I think that is the thing we have to do is to follow that we do get some students into the system. And so I will give Senator Hefner one more year to try to keep this going and see if it will be better than it has the first two years because I don't think it has been too great. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Hartnett. Senator Nelson.

SENATOR NELSON: I have to confirm Senator Schrock's, this would educate four students and then we are maybe taking away from that opportunity of adding...let's give this to the Nebraska Youth Council, someone that could utilize that money, and knows how to use it. It is an ongoing program. It is noninter...no religious basis. They do very well at the university. Let's find out our priorities. I think it is, again it is one of those things that sounds good to the public maybe, and I don't really believe it does sound good to the public when they will find out that we, as legislators, just cannot address cutting programs as we advocate to other people. I really didn't even know my button was on here, so I think that that's all I have to say. I do have some seatmates around here once in awhile, and, again, all of you have heard the programs described. If it would help reach any students at risk, how many of you had any response back from those students that particularly attended? Contrary...none. Contrary to what Senator Hefner may have been told, I was told that the rural students didn't participate. They sent a bus out empty and sent it back empty. Is that good, wise use of our money? I just can't believe it and, Senator Hefner, as much as I like you, I think you've got another bill coming up here that's going to increase taxes here pretty quick, LB 411. You must...oh, you are going to decrease them. Good for you, because I thought maybe I was getting a little confused or you were getting a little confused. But I am glad to see that. But I just, if the program, it's a program that has proved to not be worthy of what we are spending on it, and I sit in the Education Committee, so many worthwhile programs that we could spend money on, and we simply don't have it, and I think