

need to be in existence.

SPEAKER EAACK: Thank you, Senator Lamb. Senator Conway.

SENATOR CONWAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and members, the...some of the comments that are being made are somewhat in error as we start studying this process. Over the course of time, we talk about the \$125,000 that we took from this particular commission, to date, and it wasn't until last year when we were talking the \$25,000 appropriation, prior to that there was only a \$10,900 appropriation over a period of time. So that \$125,000 would have gone a long way to cover the 35,000 that has been appropriated and brought us up to this date. So it is not correct in saying that that \$125,000 would have been eaten up anyway because it would not have. There would still probably be close to \$100,000 on reserve for them. As far as eliminating an agency, Senator Lamb is correct, it's difficult to eliminate an agency, particularly one in this case, in my mind, that is truly needed. I don't think that any discussion relative to the fact that it's not needed. I have no problem in studying it, looking for ways to economize it, looking for ways to maybe become better self-funded into a cash form, but I think it needs to be done with some actual thought and not simply a whim that comes across short of a lot of information. We're leaving the standards on board. What we've got is a situation that we're not saving the taxpayers of Nebraska one dime. What we'll end up doing is increasing their costs because now you're going to have to have, in essence, a sub-Athletic Commission in every community that wants to sponsor any sort of an event. So those costs are going to be there but they're going to be much less efficient than we have through this central process. We are talking about the health and safety of an activity that has been...has a long tradition in Nebraska. And some people say, well, how did they do so well in previous years? Well, occasionally, we have something like...and if you go back to the Smoking Joe Frazier standard fight for the title bout held in Omaha, that's where they made a lot of money. If you go back to...and Senator Moore knows well that when Hulk Hogan comes to town we make a lot of money in the wrestling arena. We just didn't have one of those events of consequence or as many of those events of consequence this last year, partly because of the economy, partly because of, I'm sure, TV showings and the like, but those events do come and go and we happen to be in a specific lean year. But where I come from amateur boxing, golden gloves is a long-standing tradition and to even have a