

PRESIDENT MOUL: We have ceased debate and I will call on Senator Robinson for closing.

SENATOR ROBINSON: Madam President, members of the body, I think we have had a good debate, but what are we voting on? One side, we are voting to take \$1.7 million out of state aid to education, and put 500 foster care children, who are the most fragile children in our society today, you take that money away from the schools, and what is going to happen? They are not going to get the service. If you think so, you are living in a dream world, Senator Ashford. You are living in a dream world. Senator Bernard-Stevens talked about in his debate on school salaries, let's throw them a crumb. We are taking more than a crumb away from schools on this bill. There has been an increase of over 800 foster care children in the last seven years, and a lot of those students are students that are in other school districts other than their own. I think we are talking about \$1.7 million, but the bottom line, folks, take a good look at yourself in the mirror, I have heard people talk about disabled people, all these social studies issues. How would you like to have, how would you like to have a child in a foster care home? You probably weren't doing something right or that person wouldn't be there. But just think about what's happening to those people. There is going to be children that leave those foster care homes and then are going to go to group homes. And then you know what happens, social service comes in for about five times as much money. You read the article in the paper today, you know how group homes operate. Some of them don't operate very good. We had six, four to six students in the one in Council Bluffs. We pay as high as from 25 to 100 thousand dollars for those young people that we send out of the State of Nebraska. If you don't believe so...if you don't believe that, ask Senator Rasmussen because she and I have been doing a study of that the past year. The other side of the story is \$1.7 million out of state aid to education, someone talked...who speaks for foster care children? Who speaks for them? Gosh, if we don't speak for them, who does? We are worried about what we are going to spend that \$1.7 million for. That is what we are concerned about. Let me ask a rhetorical question. No, I want to ask Senator Moore this question. Senator Moore.

SENATOR MOORE: Yes.

SENATOR ROBINSON: Would you be willing to put...the dire