

September 29, 1992 LB 21

appoint anyone. There was one senator had three students nominated but appointed only one. There was one senator who failed to participate in the process from the beginning. I might say that one student that was nominated from my area, and it certainly was not the student's fault whatsoever, it was the school counselor that did the appointing, I never seen a student quite so high in academic, in privileges, in sports, church and activities, and if you can believe it, they were nominated as one of the students at risk. Naturally, I turned that down. So I think I've explained it. It's just one of these programs that every senator on the floor, and if I've got 30 senators here, 25, that it's a program that started out maybe with an admirable idea and simply was never carried through. We find very little follow-up on these students. It's simply a week's vacation for what was the 42 students and I don't think we can afford that luxury. And that's simply the bill.

SENATOR WARNER PRESIDING

SENATOR WARNER: Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, Mr. President, and members of the body, I rise in support of LB 21. As some of you may recall, Senator Hefner and I were cosponsors with Senator Barrett of the original bill that established the Youth Academy. I fought the attempt by Senator Nelson last year to kill the program and I believe even the year before, Senator Nelson. Didn't you bring that to us twice? It seemed like a long debate. Whether it was once or twice, I don't recall, but notwithstanding all of that, I would rise in support of this. The program has been tried. I think, in many respects, it has been...or in some respects, at least I should say, it has been disappointing. I know that from my own district this year we had...I had to go out and almost recruit applicants and we finally nominated two and one person chose not to attend. And I just don't think that in the long run that the program has been what we wanted it to be despite everybody's best efforts and despite the expenditure of funds. So I think this is one example of a program that we have to look at, we have to evaluate, we have to say, did it do what we wanted it to do. And if it didn't, I say let's kill the program. So I rise in support of Senator Nelson's bill. Thank you

SENATOR WARNER: Seeing no further lights, Senator Nelson, do you wish to waive closing?