

those young boys that were expelled in Omaha were actually pretty good students. Another thing, there are a lot of alternative schools in the State of Nebraska right now. Lincoln has one, they have a...I think it's a former grade school or junior high. There is no reason those young people can't go there. In Omaha, in the whole Omaha area they have them. They have one in North Platte. So when you wipe out the big population centers and then you say, well, how many expelled students do we have? I am having my staff call now to see. I have never...I haven't had one of my students say that...or superintendents tell me that they have expelled anyone, but I think we have to know what the figures are, and I think there are a lot of things that are in place right now, and I guess I'd question what expense there would be. You may have one, and I thought of that nasty word, it begins with E and I don't want to shake up Senator Hartnett, because, you know, because there is an S and then there is a U, but I probably...we probably wouldn't want to get an unfunded mandate under their control, but I am not sure this is as big a problem as we think it is. And I will let Senator Hartnett have the rest of my time. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Hartnett, you have two and a half minutes.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Members of the body, I guess I don't see the problem. I guess I am like Senator Robinson, don't see the problem as big as it is because I think, you know, the ones on page 2 it talks about alternative schools or educational programs available to students. And that really gives, to me, gives a lot of flexibility to school districts, and to me the purpose of school I think to educate students, you know, not ex..."expel" them for a year, and then not give them some types of activities that they can, you know, continue their education. I guess when I was a school administrator, I always say back in the Dark Ages and so, we had, you know, different programs at that time for students that maybe not were for discipline problems but for other problems, and so I think that...I think we have a bunch of creative school administrators that can have alternative schools or some other types of programs that can meet the needs of students because I think...I think our number one concern has to be to educate the student, young people of this state. And some students have a little more difficulty getting along in the schools, and we are expelling students for games and activities that we used to do as commonplace with the