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SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes.

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: ...prior to that, I'd like to say that I think that the work that the volunteerism is doing is a good work and I've certainly received nothing but good comments about how they are doing it. But it's...I think that reading your Statement of Intent, it said that this was...this was created in 1994 by executive order of then Governor Nelson.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: That's correct.

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: And what I would like to know is that you also say in the Statement of Intent that this does not create a new agency. I'd like to know...that's...that's what it says. It's just creating a commission instead of an agency. It's not a new...a new body. I'd like to know what...what is the reason for doing it.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Well, actually, there are several reasons, Senator Pederson. One is to give some stability to this particular entity, and it would be an agency. If it says in the Statement of Intent then that is in error, because you would be creating an agency where before you have an entity or commission established by executive order. A second reason probably for doing this would be to make sure that we had some legislative oversight over that particular commission, which we really don't have too much now and that would give us more oversight. And...and it also establishes a fund which would make it possible for monies and gifts to come into this particular agency. And I might add, before everybody gets too excited about the amount of money that we're talking about here, it's...it's a relatively small amount of money in state funds, but what the commission hopes eventually is that the foundation can raise all of those funds through their foundation and through what they call soft grants or monies.

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: Well, Senator, you know as well I do, and in fact I've joined with you in a bill to review all of these various commissions that we have in Nebraska, and I think there