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using federal funds which, it is true, are not...are not free, but at least they are...they are doing that. And I think the Peace Corps and AmeriCorps have all served good purposes, but I don't see that this ought to be a priority of the State General Fund use down the road. I think that this is one place that we can pull the plug, so to speak, on getting into more General Fund expenditures for this reason and let them continue the good work that they're doing voluntarily. I find no fault in what they're doing voluntarily.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator. Chair recognizes Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, thank you, Mr. President. Members of the body, I feel under siege this morning and I would like to try to address as many of the issues that have been brought up here on the floor this morning as I can. I'm not sure I'm going to get to all of them, but I will do the best I can. First of all, we're not establishing a new commission here, in the sense that we've had this commission since 1994. And perhaps I have not done a good job of explaining what this commission does and for that I take full responsibility. I did not mean to imply, nor is it true, that the only people that are working within this commission are those paid AmeriCorps volunteers. These volunteers are able to generate thousands and thousands of volunteers across the state, whether it's through 4-H programs, whether it's through the elementary schools where they're helping children with their reading problems, no matter what it is. They're not the only volunteers we're talking about, but they are the ones who are the young people who are coming into the state and to other states to help communities do their jobs. We're getting terrific bang for the buck. We have to come up with so much in matching funds for the federal grants that are coming down. The federal grants are about \$1.6 million, as I mentioned before, and we have always had to provide a match and sometimes this has been in office space or whatever. But last year the...the shortfall prompted the Volunteer Service Commission to come before the body and ask for the \$75,000 in funds. As I mentioned to you, they hope to eventually have to ask for no state funds because they will have this terrific volunteer foundation that will help raise the money. And I should mention to you that there was a gentleman from Valmont