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reservations of those who have spoken about creating another commission and the fear of that growing and we becoming more dependent upon...on the government for funding this measure than contributions and other means of raising funds. So, as it stands right now, I would not probably want to support putting this into statute, and I don't think that I will, unless I can become convinced that this activity will cease if we don't do something, and I don't get the impression that it will. Thank you, Mr. President.

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

SENATOR JANSSEN: Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor, members of the Legislature. This group was founded by executive order in 1994. And I am a little concerned about what may happen if we don't continue to encourage volunteerism in the state of Nebraska. Most of you are from smaller communities, even the larger communities, that have noticed a decline in volunteer organizations. In particular, I think of one volunteer organization that I've belonged to for quite some time, that's the Volunteer Firemen. At one time your company strength was set at 25 members. And they have a terrible time now. And I don't think it's just isolated in my district, I think it's...most of the districts across the state where you have trouble finding and keeping up your strength in those companies. We took a look at a club like, let's take for instance the Lions' Club. You volunteer your money, and your time, and your service to do good, especially for the blind, that's one of the goals of the Lions' Club--collecting eye glasses and so on. A lot of clubs in the state are folding up because they have no members. I think that we need to encourage volunteerism through the state as much as we can. And I'm also concerned about if we.... By executive order is all right, you know, I suppose that's fine. Will it go away? I don't know. If it's in the statutes it would stay here. But I'm worried about maybe some of the foundation money, some of the large corporations and so on saying the state isn't getting serious about this, we'll start...we will stop or lower the amounts of monies that we put into these types of programs. It's great. I listen to the people who testified in the committee who said that they contribute to this. They feel as though this is a