

Commission be overridden.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator (sic) Robak, members of the Legislature, this is an unusual case. This doesn't compare in any way really to the things we have been discussing. We are back to discussing a mistake again, and in this case, it is not an alleged mistake in the Legislature, but it is an uncontested and admitted mistake by the Game and Parks Commission that we are talking about. Last year, as you all know, we did the biennial budget. Before we did that, a year before, you may all recall, those of you who were here anyway, that we passed the Trails Development Act, and the year that we passed that, then we put \$100,000 into the Trail Development Fund. The Trail Development Fund is not for Game and Parks but it is for communities all around the state matching grants, for communities all around the state for communities that are interested in the development of recreational trails, and that fund was used the first year by Dannebrog, I think by Ashland, some by Lincoln, some by Omaha. Then the first year after it had been in use, of course, at that point, we all relied upon the agencies to go ahead and make the annual request for that fund. Well, Game and Parks in this biennium, for the year that we are in right now, and for '94-95, simply forgot to request funds for trails. It is not that they forgot to request part of it or most of it, they forgot to request all of it, and so the \$100,000 a year that was to be there for '93-94, and the \$100,000 that was to be there for '94-95 was not there, zip, zero. The program took, in effect, a 100 percent hit during those two years. There have been no funds there for trail development. It was a mistake. I passed out to you a letter from Game and Parks acknowledging that it was a mistake, asking for a deficit appropriation for those two years, and what did our Appropriations Committee do? They responded. They put \$100,000 for '93-94 and they put \$100,000 for '94-95 back into the budget, which represents simply restoring, no increase, simply restoring the funds for trail development. And I might say, by way of aside, that I appreciate the fact that the Appropriations Committee did make things straight, and I also very much appreciated the fact that Senator Moore, notwithstanding the emotions that we all felt on the fertilizer tax debate, never ever mentioned or looked at or went after the trail fund, which he could have done. And I want to thank him for the way he handled that. But, nonetheless, these funds that