

SENATOR HOAGLAND: All right, now he takes them to facilities that are provided by the Department of Social Services.

SENATOR GOODRICH: Okay, in say Douglas County, we've got the children home up there on 42nd Street. That's where they have been taking them except the Department of Social Services, for example, is not open after hours. They are not open weekends. They are not open holidays. That's what...we've had this come up before and that's the fly in the ointment, in other words. Those people, for example, come down here and testified to the effect, just give them to us, we're open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and we will take care of it. The only trouble is it was six-thirty in the afternoon and we immediately called just to test them on it in a public hearing and there was nobody at the Department of Social Services to accept custody or anything else. All it was was a telephone answering service, so consequently I think we've got to look at where they are going to be taken, make sure that each county at least, or somewhere in the state, all over the state in other words, we have provision for the place to take those children after hours, holidays, weekends, that sort of thing. And I really think you've got a problem there. If you could ease my mind on that or maybe even do a little research on your own, because we found that the Department of Social Services were not very reliable in their answers to us.

SENATOR HOAGLAND: Let me respond briefly, Senator Goodrich. I think you're admonitions are entirely appropriate and I concur that it is very important for us to have workers available and facilities available to take care of these kids, again, in a least restrictive setting whenever they are taken into custody particularly at the beginning of a weekend. Now it is my understanding that the Department of Social Services does have social workers on call and they have a variety of placements available for the children depending on the dangerousness of the child involved. They have a variety of temporary placements. They have foster homes if that's appropriate, on up the ladder to medium security detention centers if that's appropriate or necessary. I'm sure that the department like any other human organization can improve in rendering those kind of services. Again, I think your admonitions are appropriate and I think we should pursue the matter.