look at this bill as an easy out for law enforcement people in this state who claim that this bill handcuffs them and puts them in the position where they cannot take action when they come upon intoxicated people, and if they would read the law as amended, if they'd read Section 2, the last paragraph, this provides for law enforcement people to indeed be able to pick up intoxicated people and put them in a twelve hour protective custody situation. They can get them off the street. They can get them into protective custody, but in my area, the law enforcement people are ignoring this provision in the law and maintaining that they are handcuffed and they don't have a place to put these people. They talk about before this law was passed law enforcement people spent up to forty percent of their time in Omaha anyway dealing with intoxicated people and now they do nothing about them. So if that is the case, where is the forty percent of the time going for the police. The law that is on the books, 593 and 376, if they would implement this, there is no need for this LB, whatever it is, there is no need for LB 259 which would, just like I said before, completely emasculate what you already have on the statutes.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Nichol, your light is back on. Do you want to...?

SENATOR NICHOL: Am I the only other one that wants to talk?

SPEAKER MARVEL: Yes, sir.

SENATOR NICHOL: Okay. Senator Powers brought up a couple of good points and this does require the cooperation of some of the local agencies, namely, the peace officers, and where the peace officers refuse to cooperate with this, nothing is being done. Recently at Scottsbluff they elected to provide a halfway house or whatever you want to call it, at least a place for those people who do not have a home to go to, to provide a space where they will be at least out of the weather and where they can be interviewed or visited with by those who are willing to help them. Now Lincoln, Nebraska, as I recall when we were studying this four or five years ago, was a leader in this field and the program was working then and it is working in other parts of the state where they are attempting to do so. As I said it does require some cooperation. If you have one weak link in the chain it doesn't work. Senator Lamb, I really feel that if the police officers in your area would be willing to cooperate, they will be able to find the help required in some nearby place,