

PRESIDENT: Senator Hall, do you wish to speak on the...

SENATOR SMITH: I'm not finished yet.

PRESIDENT: I'm sorry.

SENATOR SMITH: All right, looking at the map, C, a map of Nebraska, it shows the 41 counties that used the service in the last fiscal year. Those counties range from the farthest most points in the north, the south, the east and the west. As you will note, Adams County is pretty well centrally located in the state for service as a medical detox unit. At best the decision to close the unit was not based on very...was based on very incomplete information, I feel. The object of the decision on the following grounds...excuse me. I object to the decision on the following grounds and I am confident that, if you scrutinize the facts and issues of the situation as carefully as I have done, you will agree also. It is argued that closing the detox unit will save money. If you will please examine the evidence with me you will see how this is a false hope. You will see how closing the unit will, in the end, cost the state and the taxpayers far more than would keeping open the center. The opponents of the detoxification unit argue that statistically it costs between \$45 to \$55 per day to care for someone in a socially oriented detoxification center. They compare that to the claim that it costs somewhere around \$285 a day to care for someone in a medical oriented center, like the unit at the regional center. The dollar figures we are dealing with in this case, the amounts that you will be asked to appropriate, run contrary to those assertions. In this budget today DPI is proposing to spend more for less results. In the past \$139,000 worth of general fund monies have been appropriated by this body to the Department of Public Institutions for the alcohol detoxification unit at the regional center. As I've already discussed, this money has provided a valuable service to many clients from many counties across the state. But this year DPI has stated its intention to spend what will amount to be more than the past appropriation for a downgraded service. Let me repeat that. DPI is asking you to spend more of your constituent's money for less service. I have said the cost of the detoxification unit has been \$139,000 of general fund money. Let's compare that to the new, supposedly money-saving approach. When I asked DPI, some