

inflexible even though it will be painful to the folk in Hastings and to the people who are employed to the Regional Center. I think instead we should tolerate the change, give our administration that kind of flexibility and go with the social detoxification unit in Grand Island as the case may be. All that means is that I do oppose Senator Smith's amendment.

PRESIDENT: The Chair would explain to Senator Nelson, I didn't get it announced. Your seventh graders from Lutheran School, Grand Island, they left before I had a chance, but it will be in the record if you want to send it to them. Also, Senator Nelson, you're next on the speaking agenda for the Smith amendment.

SENATOR NELSON: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, frankly I guess I had hoped that maybe I wouldn't have to speak on this today and go against my good friend Senator Smith, but as Senator Johnson said, we are down here to do the best that we can and for the best of the state and I have to definitely rise in opposition of Senator Smith and might I tell you that this has caused a great stir in our area and partly thanks to the media center. And I feel sorry for Senator Smith if she has to rely on some of the figures from her local media center because I certainly have to take great exception with them. I first...at the first thought that...

PRESIDENT: Excuse me, Senator. (Gavel.) May we have a lessening of the conversational noise under the north balcony, all over the Chamber. Go ahead, Senator.

SENATOR NELSON: Several points, I first thought the same as Senator Smith did until I got more and more involved in this. I agree that there are start up costs, consultation costs and so on in moving this to Grand Island. Frankly I don't care whether it goes to Grand Island, Kearney, Hastings, Kenesaw. It doesn't make any difference to me, but I no longer can support this kind of cost in a medical setting. I will tell you that Region I, Sheridan Detox Center, \$48.00; Region II, North Platte, \$51.00; \$44.00, Cornhusker and so on. I also have some figures that approximately 3 percent of the patients at Hastings have to go on to a hospital. Hastings is not set up to respond to the complex medical needs and we also realize that this would be the case with the Friendship House in Grand Island.