

to say that there would have to be additional reduction of population at the other three regional centers. Quite frankly, I think that both of these programs could and should be closed because these people could be served at far less expense in the community. Mr. Jensen even had a task force which he appointed to examine the Comprehensive Care Service, recommended that it be closed, and that these people could be served in less costly and improved settings. In conclusion, it is clear to me that Mr. Jensen could proceed with the recommended closing and save more than \$600,000. Perhaps we could take even more from the institutional budget and make it available in community programs that these additional people could be served in the community. You can see that we are not taking anything away from DPI, if that is what he is going to do, and I think we can save the State of Nebraska a considerable amount of money and we are helping a lot more people. Thank you.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Smith please, then Senator DeCamp, then Senator Withem, then Senator Wesely, and then Senator Warner. Senator Smith.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. President. I am really confused here. This is the first that I was made aware of the fact that the Children's Developmental Unit at the Regional Center in Hastings would be affected by the Lynch amendment. I guess I was under the impression that I would like to support the Lynch amendment. We are all looking for where we can save dollars, \$600,000 from DPI budget sounded like it would be a realistic figure to me. Then I get this handout that according to Ron Jensen says we will have to close all these places at the savings of \$600,000. On the other hand, I have something that Senator Sieck passed out that says if we really looked at what these units cost, it is \$2,682,000. How do any of us know how to vote and I guess I would like to support Senator Lynch's amendment but I believe I am being held hostage by Ron Jensen because I don't know what to believe here. I need more information and I don't know who to ask for it from. Senator Lynch, could I ask a couple of questions of you please.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Lynch, would you... Senator Lynch, before you do, may I get some order for you please. (Gavel.) Ladies and gentlemen, let's hold it down please especially under the north balcony. (Gavel.) Especially under the north balcony, please hold it down so you can hear