

not to do this at this time. Thank you.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Hall, please.

SENATOR HALL: Mr. President, members, Senator Lynch, would you yield to a question? Dan, is there some reason that this couldn't be done, rather than submit it as an amendment, couldn't this be done during...along with the interim study that is going to be done this summer by the Appropriations Committee and the directors of the regions?

SENATOR LYNCH: I would hope it would be done, Senator Hall. What bothers me is just hearing Senator Morehead it would indicate that maybe somebody's mind might be made up and they don't want to be confused with the facts. I pointed out I think very honestly that there is no difference except for the buildings. When I close I'll get into more detail. But it can be accomplished in an interim study. I just offered this as an amendment to make sure that the study this summer would have all the facts it needs. Without this kind of information it could tend to continue the status quo which isn't necessarily the right thing for either the affected and retarded, the staff, the clients, or the money that we are spending.

SENATOR HALL: Okay. Thank you very much. I'm not sure that I agree with this amendment totally, but I think in some respect it may have some merit, if nothing else, so that we do have a cost comparison to look at. But I have a personal interest. I have a brother who is a resident of the state program in Beatrice. I know, personally, that he would not be able to function in a community based mental health program. I also know that the cost down at the Beatrice program, when looked at on paper compared to some of the community based programs, seems rather high. I just question whether or not we need to put this and whether it belongs as an amendment to the bill. I guess right now I'm not sure that I can support it. Thank you.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Higgins, please, then Senator Haberman. No, Senator Higgins is first. I was just announcing you are second. Senator Higgins.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Who tried that?

SPEAKER NICHOL: Don't question it.