

these eight people out there, you are coming into the state system. They made them come in. They said, you are coming into the state system, and now they have come along, they have been in the state system for seven months, and we are turning around and saying, you are going to be fired because there is no funding for these positions. Now, whatever you may think about the dispute between the Appropriations Committee and the proponents of LB 13 and the probation committee, look at it from the point of view of those eight people who were required by the state to join the system and now are being told that they are going to be fired. One of the questions that comes up and probably an important question to you are, what do these service department people do? Are they probation people? Is it a probation function? Do they look like, smell like, act like probation officers? And you can read, I had passed out to you exactly what the functions of the service officers are in the municipal court. And you can see from the handout that they deal with child abuse and neglect cases, and they are the ones who basically manage cases involving child neglect and child abuse. They are the ones who see about foster homes, about putting children back with their parents once they have been separated from their parents. Basically, they oversee on behalf of the judges and feed the judges information on these types of court administered cases. So you can characterize it in a number of different ways but I think it is not at all straining the definition of probation officer to suggest that these are essentially probation functions. In Sarpy County the same function is performed by a probation officer. In other places these functions are performed by social services. Now you could argue that Douglas County should do it the same way as Lancaster County does and should use social service officers but I am not sure that we shouldn't continue with what Douglas County is doing. And if you want to bring social service officers into the process, then probably it is six of one and half a dozen of the other anyway and you are going to end up hiring social service people to do the same function. Either you are going to do that or you are going to degradate the entire function, that is, you are going to put less emphasis on child neglect and child abuse in Douglas County than is currently being placed on those particular problems and I am sure that the Legislature does not particularly want to do that. So that will give you an idea of why we think that those officers should be included in the probation system, should have been brought in under LB 13, and should be