

in which this has been handled but I don't think it is proper that the state punish the children in the juvenile court system that will be affected by this reduction in probation officers. I have here a letter from the Lutheran Family in Social Services of Nebraska stating, and I won't read all of it but just saying, "To reduce the probation office personnel is to threaten the welfare of children and families in Nebraska. Their caseloads are already beyond reason and further cuts in staff will make caseloads unmanageable and service ineffective." The North Omaha Alcoholism Counseling Program, "The North Omaha Counseling Program has worked and cooperated with the justice system for the past ten years by providing counseling and other ancillary services for those persons who are on probation. We have also assisted the probation officers by sending reports to them and communicating with them regarding mutual clients with the required releases of information. It is our opinion that a reduction in the number of probation officers will not allow for proper supervision of persons on probation plus without having the proper supervision many people will not receive the help they so vitally need. We hope that the Legislature will properly fund the probation system." I don't know if all of you outstate get the same copy of the Omaha World Herald that we get in Omaha but in yesterday's Midland's news section, they had quite a large article that reported cases of child abuse are up 160 percent since 1982. That is a tremendous increase. If we do not properly fund this, if we go along with the original appropriation Senator Warner mentioned, we will be forcing then juvenile court systems in Lancaster County, Sarpy County, and Douglas County to work with an increased caseload. They will be having the same number of probation officers as they had in 1979, almost 7 years ago. Prior to these cuts, each probation officer already was held responsible for an average caseload of 200 offenders, that is 200 per probation officer. Once the layoffs go into effect, the misdemeanor division will be operating with approximately the same number of officers employed in '79 but with an increased caseload of 246 percent. Personally, I could care less about the probation officers and their jobs. I am sure they will find work elsewhere but I know several of them in Omaha and I know that they do work late hours. They are not nine to five jobs or eight-thirty to four-thirty jobs as many county employees are. They are out in the evening working on these cases. They are looking after the youngsters that come before our juvenile court