

care of you. I think that is a rather dangerous precedent to set and I think we need to send a message that we don't condone this kind of behavior and that we don't condone this kind of action and that we need to open up those systems of communication better. If you have a problem with your budget, you need to come in and talk to us and work these kinds of things out rather than just taking that kind of risk...

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR SCOFIELD: ...that affects your citizens.

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR SCOFIELD: So I am going to vote "no" on this simply as an expression of my concern about the way this was done. I hope you won't view this, as Omaha citizens, as vindictive. It is simply my way of sending the message that I don't approve and I think it has very serious implications down the road. I am not sure that we would have treated another agency this way. I am not sure, if this would have been Hastings or Grand Island or Chadron or Broken Bow or Merna, that we would have acted the same way on this and I think the message we send had better be very clear. So I hope that you will think through this in your minds and also make sure that whatever decision you make here and whatever message you send is also very clear. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Senator Hall.

SENATOR HALL: Mr. President and members, I rise to support the Beutler amendment. Senator Scofield is absolutely right. I don't agree with her conclusion and the way that she may vote on this issue, but her point is well taken, on my part anyway. We find ourselves in a situation that no one wants to be in. We find that we are roughly \$65,000 short in a program that without any doubt is necessary, without any doubt is cost effective. But this amendment is a vehicle to correct that situation. I also want to tell Senator Warner that I do not feel that there is any blame or anything of the same kind that is pointed toward the Appropriations Committee. Senator Scofield is absolutely right when she says that, you know, the counties could have picked this up. It is my understanding that the lack of communication carried over to the counties too because no