

one there came to them and said, would you pick this up? We are talking about merely \$65,000. I...a position is you are talking \$8,200 a year. You are not talking about a lot of money. What we are talking about is the process that brought us to this place where we find ourselves today and we may not agree with the way we got here. We may not like that and we may want others to know that we don't want to find ourselves back here again. But I don't think that is a good enough reason to say no to this amendment and not to fund the full program. And, Senator Scofield, I would hope that the body would not be any different if we were talking about Hastings or Broken Bow or Merna. I would hope that the body would treat it as justly as I hope they will treat the Omaha area. Again, I would just like to reiterate that for my part I did not feel that the amendment that came out of the committee any way reflected a backdoor policy by the Appropriations Committee. I would like to yield the rest of my time to Senator Labeledz. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Senator Labeledz, you have two and a half minutes.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Thank you. I probably won't need that, Mr. President. Thank you anyway, Senator Hall. I think...and I am sorry I wasn't here for the beginning of the debate, but I think the whole question, and it centers around whether or not it was our mistake, their mistake, but whoever mistake we can put it on, I must say now that Douglas County alone in the separate juvenile court currently supervises about 1,340 children. Six hundred and seven of those children are neglect cases and 733 are delinquent status. I don't think that any one of us on this floor are going to sit back and say, well, it's their fault and therefore the whole program should not be funded. I think that the Douglas County separate juvenile court feels that full funding is necessary to serve these 1,340 children and any time we say and do on this floor and blame the Douglas County, or whoever, Mr. Keller, whoever is involved, I think it is absolutely ridiculous. We are talking about children. They are not at fault for our mistakes and if it is going to cost that very small amount to correct that mistake, I certainly believe that we should keep the children in mind and what will happen to them. Any deficiency in funding is seen as harmful to these youngsters as they will never have their needs met as quickly due to the lack of officers available to them. I urge the adoption of the amendment to the amendment.